The purpose of this project is to establish a comprehensive Interprofessional Behavioral Center (IPBC) that focuses on the biopsychosocial health of military personnel, veterans and their families. The Department of Nursing at Fayetteville State University (FSU) will lead this collaboration with the departments of Social Work, Psychology as well as the FSU/ Fort Bragg Veteran’s Center and Fayetteville VA Medical Center. The IPBC will support an interdisciplinary professional collaborative practice model for staff by providing high quality culturally centered and well coordinated care that meets the biopsychosocial health needs of diverse populations including military families. The services will include the assessment and management of behavioral based health problems, evidenced based prevention, early intervention, complementary and alternative therapies, and promotion of psychosocial wellness. The populations served will be dual with: 1) clinical services for the returning military services personnel, families and veterans residing in the surrounding communities; and 2) an educational setting for a newly developed Masters-Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (FPMHNP) students of FSU; as well as undergraduate nursing, social work and psychology students.

This collaborative center will focus on the holistic approaches to behavioral health of military personnel, veterans and families, which will include complementary and alternative medicine as treatment options for chronic pain and other co-morbidities. This is a unique, one-of-a-kind, timely, idea for North Carolina, which is a State that ranks third in military personnel per capita. Additional, the proposed MSN with an interdisciplinary curriculum that promotes IPCP is an ideal approach to behavioral health management and treatment.

The goals of this project are to:
1. Establish an Interprofessional Behavioral Center (IPBC) that supports interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP) to provide holistic biopsychosocial services to military families based on theories of protective factors and resilience by offering i) counseling ii) support groups iii) psychiatric assessments iv) relaxation exercises, v) complementary and alternative medicine vi) health education, vii) play therapy for children viii) and coordination of referrals by March, 1, 2013 (with planning and renovation beginning in September, 2012). (National Goal (N, G) 1 and 2; Healthy People Goal 2020, (H,P,G) 2,3);

2. Establish an IPBC that supports IPCP to provide holistic, culturally competent biopsychosocial services with an additional focus on women veterans. (NG 1, 2; HPG 2, 3);

3. Support the development and establishment of an interprofessional Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) (FPMHNP) program that enhances teamwork, collaboration and shared problem solving through a dynamic integrated learning environment. (NG 1, 2; HPG 1-4); and

4. Create an interprofessional clinical site for undergraduate and graduate students majoring in nursing, social work and counseling psychology. (NG 1, 2; HPG 1-4).