

## **California college-university partnerships receive funding to plan innovative models of nursing education**

*Grant will create better-educated nursing workforce through collaboration between two-year and four-year education programs*

SACRAMENTO – September 30, 2008 – The recipients of a grant that will enable higher education institutions to implement reforms in nursing education have been announced in what is the first of two phases of an effort to develop demonstration models of collegiate partnerships that seamlessly provide a baccalaureate degree to nurses educated in two-year programs.

Six partnerships between community colleges and four-year universities will receive up to \$50,000 each to develop the demonstration models of partnerships between campuses that will enable more nurses to complete bachelor's degrees in nursing, contributing to a better-educated nursing workforce.

The grants, which are funded by the Foundation for California Community Colleges and Kaiser Permanente Fund for Health Education at the East Bay Community Foundation, are a result of collaboration between the California Institute for Nursing & Health Care (CINHC) and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

“We need a better system for educating nurses. These grants will enable colleges and universities to work more closely together, laying a foundation to better prepare nurses for today's complex environment,” said Deloras Jones, RN, MS, executive director of CINHC.

The grants are an outcome of a study conducted by CINHC that cited a more complex healthcare system, rising patient safety expectations and a persistent nursing shortage as reasons for transforming California's nursing education system.

According to the study, “Nursing Education Redesign for California: White Paper and Strategic Action Plan Recommendations”, more baccalaureate- and graduate-prepared nurses will be needed as the state strives to fill a forecasted shortage of 116,000 nurses by 2020. Currently, 70 percent of graduating nurses have two-year ADN degrees, and only 26 percent of these go on to secure a BSN or graduate-level degree.

The grant funding, which will create a partnership between associate degree and baccalaureate degree nursing programs, is designed to encourage educators to efficiently and easily move nursing students into baccalaureate programs.

“Recent studies clearly demonstrate that a higher prevalence of baccalaureate- and masters-prepared RNs at the bedside positively impact patient outcomes,” said Dr. Jan Boller, who led the development of the CINHC study. “It is critical that California move forward to prepare a better educated nursing workforce, and equipping colleges with the resources to create a new education model will help set an example that can be used throughout the country.”

The Foundation for California Community Colleges and the Kaiser Permanente Fund for Health Education are providing funding for the grants, which have been awarded to partnerships of two-year colleges and four-year universities. The funding recipients include:

- Mira Costa College, Palomar College, and San Diego City College with CSU San Marcos\*
- Ventura College and Moorpark College with CSU Channel Islands\*
- Los Medanos College, Contra Costa College, Ohlone College, Chabot College and Merritt College with CSU East Bay\*\*
- College of the Redwoods and Shasta College with Humboldt State University\*\*
- Cabrillo College and Hartnell College with CSU Monterey Bay\*\*
- City College of San Francisco, College of San Mateo and Contra Costa College with San Francisco State University\*\*

*\*Funded by the FCCC, through its WellPoint Endowment, which aims to enhance nursing education in California.*

*\*\*Funded by the Kaiser Permanente Fund for Health Education.*

Each of the partnering groups will develop a model that can be replicated in other California regions. Once the planning phase is complete, a separate phase for the implementation of the education model will begin and is expected to be announced later this year.

For more information about the CINHC study, as well as next steps in the planning effort, visit [www.cinhc.org](http://www.cinhc.org).

####

Media contacts:

- Jill Scofield, Foundation for California Community Colleges – 916-498-6702
- Peggy Hilden, Kaiser Permanente - 510-987-3638