



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jill Scofield, Director of Media Relations

Foundation for California Community Colleges | T: 916.498.6702 | M: 916.712.0339

Innovative nursing placement program expands throughout country

*System addresses nursing shortage by streamlining student placement in hospitals
and recruitment of faculty to colleges*

SACRAMENTO – October 16, 2008—A Web-based system that directly addresses the country’s nursing shortage has been adopted by two additional markets, announced today by the Foundation for California Community Colleges. The Nursing Resource Center (NRC), an internet-based suite of tools for clinical placement of nursing students and faculty recruitment, will be implemented by nursing schools and hospitals in Cincinnati, Ohio and Corpus Christi, Texas.

The NRC includes two key components to help streamline both the student placement process and the recruitment of faculty into nursing education programs.

“The Nursing Resource Center was born out of the nursing shortage in California and has turned into a tremendous success story for nursing education throughout the nation,” said Kristine Yahn, Director of Health Care Programs for the Foundation for California Community Colleges. “Because the system is so innovative, other regions throughout the country have expressed interest in implementing something similar, which translates to improved nursing education for California and beyond.”

The NRC was launched in May 2005 in the San Francisco Bay Area, and within the first year, was in use by over 55 hospitals and over 30 nursing schools. Since then, that number has grown to 70 hospitals and 45 nursing schools, representing more than 7,259 nursing students being placed each semester or cycle. In addition, the NRC is in use in Los Angeles, Bakersfield, Houston, and Florida.

One of the NRC components, the Centralized Clinical Placement System (CCPS), was developed jointly by the FCCC and the California Institute for Nursing and Health Care through funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

-more-

The CCPS allows clinical agencies, such as hospitals, to review and respond to requests for placement of nursing students from colleges in a standard format and manage a single schedule for all placements, rather than dealing with the placement of students in a piecemeal fashion. On the opposite end, it helps schools place students more efficiently and helps them discover untapped sites for clinical placements by viewing all available opportunities at local hospitals on one easy-to-use site.

“Before using CCPS, we had to manually place and track our students in regional hospitals, which meant that placement opportunities would go often unnoticed,” said Dr. Audrey Berman at Samuel Merritt College in Oakland, Calif. “Since we implemented CCPS in 2005, we have rapidly expanded the number of students accepted at local hospitals each year and have started several new, innovative programs such as an accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing for students with a baccalaureate in another field. We might have never accomplished these things without CCPS.”

In addition to CCPS, a second program is in place called the Centralized Faculty Resource Center. The CFRC is an opportunity for recruiting much-needed nursing faculty to educational institutions. The faculty resource center facilitates the sharing of part-time nursing faculty among schools and identifies experienced nurses who would like to become classroom and/or clinical faculty. Over time, the CFRC will facilitate, expedite and improve the ability of nursing schools to locate qualified faculty. This is significant given that the faculty shortage rate of California nursing schools is at nearly 10 percent and is expected to become more severe in the coming years as nursing faculty retire in record numbers.

In the Corpus Christi area, five nursing schools and three hospitals will utilize the system, joining a growing network of users in the Houston area. The NRC in this area will place nursing students and students in the paramedic and EMT areas in clinical rotations at area hospitals. Cincinnati will launch its NRC with 25 nursing schools and hospitals.

“We are thrilled to welcome these new markets to the Foundation’s NRC network,” said Dr. Paul Lanning, President of the Foundation for California Community Colleges. “The number one priority for this innovative system is to increase the capacity to educate nurses and have a positive effect on the critical nursing shortage that California and many other states continue to face.”

Both the Corpus Christi and Cincinnati areas are using the NRC for the first time this fall and anticipate growing their capacity for nurse education over the next few years using the system.

For more information about the NRC, visit www.foundationccc.org/nrc or www.bayareanrc.org.

####

The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official non-profit to the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors, Chancellor, and System Office. The Foundation's mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community College system, the largest higher education system in the nation. Incorporated in 1998, the Foundation works with Community Colleges and partner organizations to manage donations, grants, programs, and services that drive excellence in education while saving millions of dollars for colleges each year. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit corporation and receives no direct state or public support. For more information, visit www.foundationccc.org.
