



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – December 18, 2007**

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**THE FOUNDATION FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
DESIGNATES \$3 MILLION TO ASSIST NURSING STUDENTS IN NEED**

*Funds will help Flo's Cookie Jar expand efforts in  
providing emergency grants to California nursing students*

**SACRAMENTO** – The Foundation for California Community Colleges Board of Directors has announced a designation of \$3 million to Flo's Cookie Jar, a fund that provides emergency grants to California nursing students facing financial crises which could force them to drop out of school. The Foundation's Board of Directors is also challenging Flo's Cookie Jar to raise a matching amount, which would create an endowment totaling \$6 million and enable the organization to significantly enhance its assistance to California nursing students.

According to the Board of Registered Nursing, only 70 percent of students entering associate's degree nursing programs will complete their studies and become registered nurses, and 9 percent of the students still enrolled are behind in their studies, mostly due to financial or personal emergencies. Flo's Cookie Jar was founded by California nurse leaders to help students who are faced with emergency financial need by providing one-time grants of up to \$2,000. Flo's represents a collaboration of organizations that includes the Association of California Nurse Leaders, the California Institute for Nursing and Health Care, the California Nursing Student Association and the Foundation for California Community Colleges.

"Nursing education is a rigorous course of study that is intellectually and often physically challenging, and many students have limited financial resources," said Kristine Yahn, RN, MBA, director of health care programs for the Foundation and founding chair of Flo's Cookie Jar. "No one should have to give up the dream of becoming a registered nurse for want of a few hundred dollars, especially at a time when California's nursing workforce shortage will only increase with the impending retirement of many baby boomers."

Until now, available funds through Flo's Cookie Jar were contingent solely upon the generosity of leaders in the nursing field, businesses, professional organizations, individuals, and one-time grants from organizations such as The California Endowment and UniHealth Foundation.

"The Foundation for California Community Colleges is committed to supporting the state's nursing education, which is especially important given our continued nurse shortage," said Foundation Board Chair James Sargen. "Our hope is that this endowment will enable Flo's Cookie Jar to build upon its success and thrive in the years to come, which will in turn provide tremendous benefit to the state's nursing industry as a whole."

The designation is drawn from the Foundation's \$15 million WellPoint, Inc. endowment, which is dedicated to supporting nursing education in the California community college system. Through WellPoint, the Foundation provides grants as part of the five-year, \$90 million California Nurse Education Initiative commitment launched by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2005.

The Foundation's health care education programs have expanded capacity for nursing education in California community colleges by approximately 20 percent since they began in 2005. In addition to the WellPoint Inc. endowment, which to date has provided seven programs with \$500,000 in funds, the Foundation also developed the web-based Nursing Resource Center to provide nursing education services for schools and clinical agencies in regions of California, Florida, and Texas.

*The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official auxiliary 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](http://www.foundationccc.org).*

*Flo's Cookie Jar provides grants to help pre-licensure RN students meet financial emergencies that would otherwise cause them to leave school. It is a joint charitable venture of nurse leaders to fulfill a critical patient care need – to efficiently create more RNs at a time when California ranks 50th in nurses to serve the sick and injured. Contributions to Flo's Cookie Jar are held in the California Student Nurse Association Foundation and are tax deductible. Additional information is available at [www.floscookiejar.org](http://www.floscookiejar.org).*

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