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28 COLLEGES RECEIVE FUNDING TO EXPAND HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS, SUPPORT LOW-INCOME HEALTH CARE STUDENTS

The State Board of Community and Technical Colleges approved grants to 19 Washington State community colleges totaling \$2.8 million for health care education and training programs, creating 275 new slots. Health care organizations provided \$2.0 million in matching funds to support these projects, leveraging a large amount of permanent funding for their local colleges and providing what these colleges need to help enhance the competitiveness of their applications. The following colleges received health care grants:

College	Program	# of new slots
Clover Park Technical College	Evening/weekend RN	20
Seattle Community College District	Health care institute	40
Highline Community College	RN expansion	9
Columbia Basin College	Radiology technology	17
Tacoma Community College	RN expansion	20
Skagit Valley College	RN expansion	20
Bates Technical College	Biotech lab technician	20
Highline Community College	Polysomnography technician expansion	16
Whatcom Community College	Clinical simulation laboratory	20
Pierce College-Puyallup	Nursing recruitment & retention of	10
	incumbent and diverse workers	
Clover Park Technical College	Histology technician expansion	15
Bellevue Community College	Nuclear medicine technology	30
	& radiation therapy	
Spokane Community College District	Diagnostic medical sonography	30
Clark College	RN expansion	8

The following colleges received workforce development grants to create new programs or enhance existing ones - no new slots are created.

Bellingham Technical College	Dental hygiene development
Big Bend Community College	Health care assistant development
Shoreline Community College	Expand / enhance lab specialist
Whatcom Community College	Medical assistant development
Lake Washington Technical College	RN curriculum for ABE / ESL

The State Board also approved Opportunity Grants, which will offer greater financial support to low-income students participating in career pathway certificate and degree programs co-developed by industry and colleges. These grants will "strengthen economic development in the state of Washington," said Representative Phyllis Gutiérrez Kenney, one of the chief Opportunity Grant architects, "by offering students who might not otherwise have an opportunity for education to enter a career pathway designed explicitly to prepare the participant for the next level of employment and education." Because students of color are more likely to be low-income, this program will help increase the diversity of the health care work force. Nine of the ten grants included health care training programs, totaling \$3.2 million and 391 full-time equivalent students. The ten colleges that will receive Opportunity Grants are:

- **Bellingham Technical College/Whatcom Community College** - allied health, manufacturing and construction, process technology industries, and transportation technology
- Big Bend Community College - child and family education, welding, allied health, and office information technology
- Clover Park Technical College - allied health, construction, environmental science, and landscaping
- Edmonds Community College - allied health, construction, computers, electronics, and networking
- Highline Community College - allied health, education, and business
- Olympic College - allied health, and welding
- Peninsula College - allied health, and manufacturing
- Shoreline Community College - automotive service technician
- Yakima Valley Community College - allied health, early childhood education, and K-12 education
- Walla Walla Community College - allied health, medical administration, and energy systems technology

Six Washington State Colleges Join Achieving the Dream

Achieving the Dream is a national initiative to help more community college students - particularly students of color and low-income students - succeed. The initiative uses research and data, public engagement and public policy to drive change. Each of these colleges received a \$50,000 planning grant and will be eligible to apply for a \$400,000 four-year implementation grant next year. "This will help our faculty use hard and fast data to establish practices that will help more students complete their degrees," said Big Bend Community College President Bill Bonaudi, one of the grant recipients. The six Washington colleges listed below are the first in the state to participate in this prestigious initiative and join 52 other colleges around the country. They are:

Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake; Yakima Valley Community College, Yakima; Highline Community College, Des Moines; Tacoma Community College, Tacoma; Renton Technical College, Renton; Seattle Central Community College, Seattle

Start-up funding for Achieving the Dream was provided by Lumina Foundation for Education. The Washington State colleges were funded by College Spark, formerly the Education Assistance Foundation.

NURSE EDUCATOR VACANCIES CONTINUE TO INCREASE

The problem of nurse faculty vacancies in the United States continues to grow, according to new research by the National League for Nursing. The estimated number of budgeted, unfilled, full-time positions nationwide in 2006 is 1,390. This represents a 7.9 percent vacancy rate in baccalaureate and higher degree programs, an increase of 32 percent since 2002; and a 5.6 percent vacancy rate in associate degree programs, an increase of 10 percent in the same period.

Programs in the study indicated that almost two thirds of all full-time nurse faculty members were 45 to 60 years old and likely to retire in the next 5 to 15 years. An average of 1.4 full-time faculty left their positions in 2006; nearly one quarter of these were due to retirement. Finding their replacements will challenge the industry and potentially constrain the supply of nurses in the future.

HWFI AND THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY & MIGRANT HEALTH CENTERS TO COLLECT HEALTH CENTER WORK FORCE DATA

For the first time, work force data for hospitals and health centers will be aggregated to provide an expanded description of the health care work force. The health center survey tool is being developed and will be ready for distribution by mid-October with results available by the end of the year.

The hospital portion of this survey wrapped up during the summer with an 87 percent response rate, the best ever. This high return helps to ensure the reliability of the results. The results are being analyzed by the Health Information Program of the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA), a new partner in this work. Results are due by mid-October and will be sent to all hospital chief executive officer and human resources directors as well as college presidents and workforce development council chief executives. Results will also be posted on the WSHA and HWFI websites.

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