



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

1000 SW JACKSON • SUITE 520 • TOPEKA, KS 66612-1368

TELEPHONE – 785-296-3421
FAX – 785-296-0983
www.kansasregents.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 20, 2006

BOARD OF REGENTS AWARDS \$3.4 MILLION IN NURSING GRANTS

Grants Represent First Year of Ten-Year Initiative to Address State's Nursing Shortage

(TOPEKA) – Today the Kansas Board of Regents awarded nearly \$3.4 million in nursing grants to twenty public higher education institutions across the state. Institutions with registered nurse programs were eligible to apply to the Board for these grants which were made available when, in May, the Legislature approved, and the Governor signed into law, the first year of a ten-year Board of Regents' initiative to address the critical nursing shortage in the state of Kansas.

“These grants represent an exciting first step in a ten-year commitment to addressing the critical nursing shortage facing the state of Kansas. The Legislature must be commended for its commitment to and recognition of this important issue,” said Reginald L. Robinson, President and CEO of the Board of Regents. “This program powerfully demonstrates how the state's higher education institutions play a vital workforce development role in Kansas. The Board looks forward to addressing this critical issue – an issue that only increases in importance as the state's population continues to age.”

The Board's ten-year nursing initiative is a three-part \$30 million plan that ultimately aims to increase nursing capacity in Kansas by 25 percent. Of the \$30 million total cost, \$22 million will come from state appropriations while \$8 million will be committed through matching funds by the participating educational institutions.

These grants were separated into three major areas of emphasis for which eligible institutions could apply. These areas of emphasis are: 1) Nursing Equipment and Facility Upgrades; 2) Nursing Faculty Salaries and Supplies; and 3) Nurse Educator Scholarships. Each of these grants requires matching funds from the applying institution or other sources.

A review committee consisting of representatives from the Kansas Hospital Association, the Kansas Organization of Nurse Leaders, the Kansas State Nurses Association, the Kansas Health Care Association, the Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, and the Kansas Board of Nursing reviewed the Nursing Equipment and Facility Upgrades and the Nursing Faculty Salaries and Supplies grant proposals and made award recommendations. The Nurse Educator Scholarships were provided to state universities offering graduate nursing programs. Graduate nursing students accepting these scholarships will commit, upon graduation, to become employed as a nurse educator in a Kansas nursing program.

Upon receiving the review committee's final award recommendations, the Board made the following awards:

- **Barton County Community College:** \$75,271 for the enhancement of the simulation laboratory with several new patient simulators and related equipment (Total: \$75,271).
- **Butler Community College:** \$30,844 for two part-time nursing faculty members and additional nursing classroom supplies, and \$45,629 for additional nursing laboratory equipment (Total: \$76,473).
- **Cloud County Community College:** \$17,210 for three additional part-time clinical nursing faculty members, and \$7,950 for ITV equipment that will allow distance education (Total: \$25,160).
- **Colby Community College:** \$29,610 for one full-time and one part-time nursing faculty member, and \$44,762 for a patient simulator and related instructional equipment (Total: \$74,372).
- **Dodge City Community College:** \$9,675 for one part-time nursing faculty member and related instructional supplies (Total: \$9,675).
- **Emporia State University:** \$26,400 for one additional full-time nursing faculty member and \$75,000 for two patient simulators and related equipment to develop a patient simulator lab (Total: \$101,400).
- **Fort Hays State University:** \$100,000 toward facilities renovation to create a new patient simulation center. This institution also received \$35,812 for ten Nurse Educator scholarships (Total: \$135,812).
- **Fort Scott Community College:** \$50,250 for renovation of the nursing program's lecture and laboratory spaces (Total: \$50,250).
- **Garden City Community College:** \$160,211 for the development of an advanced skills simulation laboratory with patient simulators. This laboratory will be part of a collaborative partnership between Garden City, Dodge City, Colby, and Seward County Community Colleges to increase the capacity of their individual programs to train more nurses for western Kansas (Total: \$160,211).
- **Hutchinson Community College:** \$60,000 for patient simulators and related equipment (Total: \$60,000).
- **Johnson County Community College:** \$144,200 for five part-time nursing faculty members, and \$326,245 for patient simulators and related equipment to expand their simulation laboratory (Total: \$470,445).

- **Kansas City Kansas Community College:** \$98,444 for four additional full-time nursing faculty members, and \$172,973 for patient simulators and related equipment (Total: \$271,417).
- **Kansas University Medical Center:** \$92,578 for two additional full-time nursing faculty members. This institution also received \$33,930 for six Nurse Educator scholarships (Total: \$126,508).
- **Manhattan Area Technical College:** \$24,789 for one full-time and one three-quarter-time nursing faculty member, and \$33,554 for a patient simulator and related equipment (Total: \$58,343).
- **Neosho County Community College:** \$96,933 for two full-time and three part-time nursing faculty members, and \$130,976 for two patient simulators, three computers and additional simulation support equipment (Total: \$227,909).
- **North Central Kansas Technical College, Hays Campus:** \$19,128 for one full-time nursing faculty member, and \$199,033 for the construction of an addition to their nursing education facility, as well as several simulation units and related equipment (Total: \$218,161).
- **Pittsburg State University:** \$187,168 for four additional full-time nursing faculty members and two part-time faculty members, and \$302,245 to create a patient simulation and learning resource center for the nursing department. This institution also received \$12,831 for four Nurse Educator scholarships (Total: \$502,244).
- **Pratt Community College:** \$66,240 for four and two-tenths full-time equivalent nursing faculty members, and \$57,070 for two patient simulators and related equipment (Total: \$123,310).
- **Washburn University:** \$103,453 for three and one half additional full-time equivalent nursing faculty members, and several adjunct clinical instructors, and \$62,158 for nursing clinical and classroom supplies, equipment, and patient simulator upgrades. This institution also received \$40,000 for seventeen Nurse Educator scholarships (Total: \$205,611).
- **Wichita State University:** \$176,443 for three additional full-time nursing faculty members and six part-time nursing faculty members, and \$96,673 for remodeling of a nursing laboratory, classroom renovation, and additional computer and patient simulation equipment. This institution also received \$76,681 for fourteen Nurse Educator scholarships (Total: \$349,797).

As a result of this investment by the Legislature, public nursing programs and their students will benefit from additional faculty, equipment, and supplies. With the acquisition of 30 additional sophisticated patient simulators, nursing students will become better prepared as they enter the clinical phase of their training, which will reduce the demand placed on clinical sites.

The Board, as part of its commitment to program quality, will conduct several simulation use and scenario development workshops in the coming year, so that program faculty may become fully versed in the use of this newly acquired technology.

Once the proposals funded by these grants are fully implemented, the state's nursing programs will be able to increase nursing program capacity by over 500 additional nursing students and realize the potential for additional nurse educators, thanks to the scholarship program.

Background:

The 2005 Legislature, concerned about the shortage of nurses in Kansas, recommended that the Board report to the Governor and the 2006 Legislature regarding the resources required to increase the capacity of the state's higher education system to educate registered nurses by 25 percent. The Legislature also requested that the report include a timeline for building the infrastructure necessary to accommodate up to 250 more nursing student admissions annually.

Among the causes for the nursing shortage in Kansas is an increased utilization of the health care system by an aging population at the same time many existing nurses will be retiring. The Kansas Department of Labor has predicted that 6,890 new Registered Nurse (RN) positions will be needed by 2010 to meet the workforce demand. An additional 4,460 RN replacement positions will be needed due to retirements, for a total projected need of 11,350.

Implementing nationwide strategies and initiatives within the state, Kansas has been successful in attracting individuals to careers in health care. The pressing issue now does not revolve around filling the pipeline with students interested in nursing careers, but rather expanding postsecondary program capacity for those who want to become trained nurses. Virtually every nursing program has an extensive waiting list of qualified applicants. Increasing capacity in nursing programs is a complex process that consists of acquiring additional qualified nursing faculty, securing additional clinical instruction sites, and increasing classroom space and equipment.

The nine-member Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board of the state's six public universities and a supervising and coordinating board for nineteen community colleges, ten technical institutions, and a municipal university.

--30--

*For more information contact
Kip Peterson, Director of Government Relations & Communications, at (785) 296-3421.*

Visit the Kansas Board of Regents on the Web at www.kansasregents.org