



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
August 5, 2008

BOARD OF REGENTS AWARDS NURSING GRANTS

Four Private Institutions Receive Funding To Hire Additional Nursing Faculty

(TOPEKA) – Today the Kansas Board of Regents awarded a total of \$100,000 in nursing grants to four private higher education institutions across the state. The Legislature and the Governor approved this funding during the 2008 session, and private institutions with registered nursing programs were eligible to apply to the Board for these funds, which will be used to hire additional nursing faculty.

A grant review committee, consisting of representatives from the Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, the Kansas Board of Nursing, the Kansas Board of Regents' staff, the Kansas Health Care Association, the Kansas Hospital Association, the Kansas Organization of Nurse Leaders, and the Kansas State Nurses Association, reviewed proposals submitted from private institutions, and made award recommendations. Upon receiving the review committee's recommendations, the Board made the following awards:

- Brown Mackie College, Kansas City: \$25,000 for one additional nursing faculty member.
- Brown Mackie College, Salina: \$25,000 for one additional nursing faculty member.
- MidAmerica Nazarene University, Olathe: \$30,000 for one additional nursing faculty member.
- Southwestern College, Winfield: \$20,000 for one additional nursing faculty member.

“The Legislature should be applauded for supplementing the successful nursing initiative with these additional financial resources,” said Reginald L. Robinson, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents. “Our state’s higher education institutions – both public and private – play an integral role in combating the nursing shortage, which is among the state’s most pressing workforce development issues, and an issue that only increases in importance as the state’s population continues to age.”

These four awards supplement the already successful Kansas Nursing Initiative – a 10-year, \$30 million state funding and matching grant program that was approved by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor in 2006. The nursing initiative’s goal is to combat Kansas’ looming nursing shortage; in its first year (FY 2007) the program achieved the following results:

- 507 additional nursing students were admitted;
- 28 full-time and 23 part-time additional nursing faculty were hired;
- 53 Nurse Educator Service Scholarships were awarded; and
- 27 human patient simulators were placed into nursing classrooms.

The nursing initiative utilizes a combination of grant and scholarship programs to increase the capacity of existing Registered Nursing (RN) programs in Kansas. The first component of the program aims to increase the availability of qualified nursing faculty in public postsecondary nursing education programs

through the Nurse Educator Service Scholarships program where scholarship recipients agree to engage in the teaching of nursing in a Kansas nursing program after receiving their Masters in Nursing or Doctorate degree. The second component, the Nursing Faculty Salaries and Supplies program, allowed nursing programs to apply for grant funds to increase the number and retention of qualified nursing faculty and for consumable supplies used in nursing programs. The third component, the Nursing Equipment and Facility Upgrades program, assisted nursing programs in obtaining new technology, equipment or space to accommodate increased program capacity. The initiative's 2007 annual report can be found on the Board's website at www.kansasregents.org.

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 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.

###

About the Kansas Board of Regents:

The nine-member Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board of the state's six universities and the statewide coordinating board for the state's 32 public higher education institutions (six state universities, a municipal university, nineteen community colleges, and six technical colleges). In addition, the Board administers the state's student financial aid, adult education, GED, and career and technical education programs. The Board also authorizes private proprietary schools and out-of-state institutions to operate in Kansas, and administers the Kan-ed network, a statewide network that provides broadband Internet access and distance learning capabilities for schools, hospitals, and libraries.

For more information, contact Kip Peterson at (785) 296-3421 or at kpeterson@ksbor.org.

Visit the Kansas Board of Regents online at www.kansasregents.org.