

NCLEX Preparation, New Curriculum

In response to the on-going nursing shortage, the Health Initiative and the Regional Health Occupations Resource Centers have developed a new curriculum, the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) – RN Preparation Program.

The primary purpose of the NCLEX Preparation Program is to present information to graduates of accredited schools of nursing to prepare them to successfully pass the NCLEX-RN. This course is designed to assist graduates that have taken the NCLEX examination at least one time, and have not been successful, referred to as repeat test takers. A shorter version of the program is also presented for new graduates referred to as first time test takers. Furthermore, this NCLEX Preparation Program is designed to provide the participant with the

“13 MODULES, EACH CONTAINING STUDY GUIDES, LEARNING ACTIVITIES, AND PRACTICE QUESTIONS.”

requisite knowledge to function safely within the legal framework of nursing as set forth by the State of California (Department of Consumer Affairs, Board of Registered Nursing). Completers are expected to take the NCLEX-RN and demonstrate competency by passing the exam.

This course provides a comprehensive preparation for the NCLEX-RN using the nursing process to promote psychosocial integrity within the context of the health-illness continuum across the life span. Emphasis is on

therapeutic interactions and communications, bio-psychosocial rehabilitation and therapeutic use of self. The program is intended to be presented in a classroom setting with an additional requirement of spending time in the computer lab practicing identified NCLEX-RN test preparation questions. The curriculum is distributed on CD's with PowerPoint presentations, and practice NCLEX-RN questions. The curriculum is organized into 13 modules, each containing study guides, learning

activities, and NCLEX-RN practice questions.

The purpose of this curriculum is to provide a prototype curriculum that can be used in its entirety or adapted as needed to prepare nursing school graduates to pass the NCLEX-RN. This curriculum is designed to provide the student with the knowledge and skills to pass the NCLEX-RN.

The implementation of the NCLEX curriculum is part of the new nursing expansion grants funded by the California Community College Chancellor's Office. Colleges funded under the Fostering Student Success and Center for Nursing Expansion/Innovation grants will be providing NCLEX review courses.

For a copy of the curriculum on CD contact Linda L. Zorn, RHORC Director North Far North at ZornLi@Butte.edu.

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Getting It* Done

With the **Health Care Initiative** Regional Health Occupations Resource Centers **Governor's Nurse Education Initiative**

Shortages of registered nurses continue to skyrocket as the population of California ages and demand for services goes up. In an attempt to address this shortage, the Dept. of Labor approached the Chancellor's Office for assistance in expanding the supply of registered nurses graduating from the California Community colleges' Associate Degree Nursing Programs. A concept paper was developed by the Health Care Initiative to develop plans for program expansion. It was accepted by Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary of Labor and plans for development and implementation of nursing program expansion were under way.

Barbara Whitney, Specialist, Career Technical Education from the Chancellor's Office, and Jim Comins, Initiative Director for Health Care, met with representatives of the Employment Development Department and the Dept. of Labor to finalize the expansion plans. Thus, the Governor's Nurse Education Initiative was launched. Plans for the program were announced by Governor Schwarzenegger at a Press Conference held at the Sacramento City College Sutter Center for Health Professions in April. Three types of projects were to be funded for a period of five years. The projects are The Healthy Community Forum Model, Centers for Nursing Expansion and Innovation, and a Fostering Student Success Model.

In all, 33 colleges submitted proposals for the projects. Nineteen of these were selected. Seven Fostering Student Success Grants, five Healthy

Community Forum Models, and seven Centers for Nursing Innovation and Expansion were funded. The purposes were to implement student support services to decrease attrition, offer NCLEX licensing review courses, upgrade equipment in the Nursing labs, assist in faculty and nurse preceptor training, and expand the capacity of community college nursing programs to produce almost 1200 additional nurse graduates over the five year life of the project. The Foundation for California Community Colleges contributed Wellpoint funds to the project. Enrollment Growth for Nursing funds were also used to assist with matching requirements. The Governor committed funds from the Workforce Investment Act 15% Discretionary funds. The projects were funded with the understanding that additional support from community college health care industry partners would equal a two for one match. All told, the amount of money committed

by the partnering agencies will total \$90 million dollars over the five years of the project. For further information on grant details and recipients see the Chancellor's Office presentation on www.healthoccupations.org.

\$90 million over the five years

1,200 additional nurse graduates

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Administrator, Kay Ferrier
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Teens Get Close Look at Hospital Health Careers

"I really think this program is great, especially for students who are aspiring to be in the medical field. I didn't just learn about the medical field; I found myself, and now because of this program, I have been given a big push towards my future."

— Jerina Domingo

"Wow! This program totally exceeded my expectations. I really learned a lot over this short 3-week period of time, including how dedicated and caring everyone is who works at Sharp Grossmont hospital. These individuals have inspired me to go into the medical profession and pursue my lifelong dream of becoming a radiologist."

— Danielle Marco

"...The dynamic internship included a combination of classroom instruction and clinical experience. Our training covered a range of specialties from cutting-edge biotechnology to state-of-the-art diagnosis. Overall, the Health-careers Exploration Summer Institute was truly an unforgettable three weeks."

— Karen Brentano

The Health-careers Exploration Summer Institute was established in response to a looming crisis in workforce shortages within the healthcare industry. The Institute was an East San Diego County summer school pilot program designed to provide high school students broader exposure and a better understanding of the variety of career opportunities within the medical field.

The summer school program was developed by a subcommittee of the Grossmont Union High School District Health Advisory Board, Chaired by Bob Yarris, RHORC Director. With guidance, organization and planning from the collaborative advisory group comprised of representatives from the RHORC; Sharp Grossmont Hospital; Kaiser Permanente Organization; instructors from the Grossmont Union High School District and a project consultant; a successful 3-week program providing five credits to 20 eligible students was established. Costs of the program were shared by the host hospitals, the High School District and a grant from San Diego RHORC located at Grossmont College. A visit to Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System hosted by Lynn Brooks also contributed to the formulation of the East San Diego County program.

Students paid no fee and were pre-selected on established criteria. Dressed in tan scrubs, the high school students spent the first week in the classroom and the following weeks in the hospital in groups of two. They were provided job shadowing opportunities at the two host

Aim for success not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life.

sites — Sharp Grossmont Hospital and Kaiser Permanente. Their experiences varied immensely from observing surgery; births; blood samples under a microscope; team work during a code blue; physical therapy and other health professions and treatments, as well as an autopsy. Rhian Purdy, West Hills biology teacher, who developed the curriculum and supervised the teens in conjunction with hospital partners, stated that, "students often

graduate from high school with no idea what they want to do because they haven't been exposed to potential careers." After attending the Summer Institute, student Britton Langford is rethinking her career plans, "It was amazing, and it made me question my goals." Another student, Asad Aazami, described the unique exposure from the program as invaluable, adding immensely to his high school experience.

Everyone involved agrees that the Health-careers Exploration Summer Institute's first year was a rewarding success and was a result of collaborative efforts in making this summer school course meaningful and engaging for students. The program model demonstrates the effectiveness of collaboration and coordination of industry and education in preparing for tomorrow's workforce needs.

Plans are underway to continue this program in 2006. For further information contact Jeannette Hunter, RHORC Project Coordinator at jeannette.hunter@gccd.edu.

RHORC Center Updates

San Diego/Imperial RHORC

Robert Yarris, Director
A nursing adjunct faculty on-line training program will be launched in San Diego and Imperial Counties in November '05. A grant of \$95,000 has been secured for School to Health Career Programs from Grossmont Healthcare District. Negotiations and agreements are underway to establish a Middle College for health professions at Grossmont College with plans for a first cohort for Fall 2006. The first course "Introduction to Community Health Work" commenced in October '05 with a task group working diligently to develop a certification course to be offered in 06-07 at San Diego City College.

RHORC Center and Welcome Back Program of San Diego and Imperial Counties have secured \$296,000 for a 5 year HRSA grant to extend healthcare training opportunities for international health trained professionals; a 3 year \$250,000 Wellness Foundation Grant to duplicate and develop healthcare training services in Imperial Valley and Counties; \$180,000 from Scripps Mercy Hospital to finance a 2nd accelerated associate nursing degree for international health graduates; and \$220,000 from Grossmont Healthcare District to support a 2nd and 3rd accelerated nursing cohort. RHORC 10 region has successfully secured funding in collaboration with the Regional Nursing Educational Partnership of San Diego and Imperial Counties' regional collaborative team representing community colleges of \$1.8 million from the Governor's Statewide California Nurse Initiative.

Los Angeles County RHORC

Jesus Oliva, Director
The L.A. County RHORC has made it a priority to address the nursing shortage. Leveraging resources with industry through contract education has made it possible to expand the current nursing programs in several regional colleges. Identifying board eligible nurses that have not been successful in passing the boards, and those that need one course to be board eligible, and providing them with the Nurse Licensure Pathway is also a focus. Together these efforts will result in more than 400 additional nurses by the year 2006.

During the next 5 years, Fostering Student Success Programs will provide an early intervention component to prepare entering students to recognize and overcome common causes of burnout and failure. This effort will help an additional 500 nurses that otherwise would not complete the nursing program, to be successful and obtain their nursing license.

The LA RHORC is sponsoring a Counseling symposium for all the counselors in the L.A./Orange County/Inland Empire that will focus on Student Success in an attempt to engage all levels of education, to market, recruit and retain students in health occupations.

Orange/Inland Empire RHORC

Mary O'Connor, Director
The Region 8 RHORC will be working closely with the five ADN programs in Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties who were awarded the Governor's Nursing Initiative grants showcased in the lead article. The RHORC will be supporting faculty development programs, student success strategies and preceptor preparation. Preceptor Instructor courses (train-the-trainer) are planned for October in Corona.

The RHORC Region 8 continues to coordinate the Critical Care and Telemetry courses in the Orange County area with over 15 hospitals participating. Summer/Fall programs enrolled 114 nurses, including many new graduate nurses.

Mary O'Connor is also in the final stages of the Faculty Recruitment project which will produce a Recruitment video on CD as well as a resource CD for faculty, directors, and deans to assist in recruiting efforts.

South Coast RHORC

Marsha Roberson, Director
In addition to beginning to implement the Governor's Nursing Education Initiative grant activities in the region, RHORC continues to facilitate its Industry-Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) grant, as the Santa Barbara City College Sonography (DMS) Program transitions to initial rotations in 14 clinical sites.

Additional new program support includes curricular refinements for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program (SLPA) at College of the Canyons and Dental Hygiene curriculum development at Cuesta College. Certification activities include preparing to offer the National EMT test and train-the-trainer workshops to update C.N.A. raters in revised manual skills testing.

South Bay Region RHORC

Matthew Grayson, Director
The South Bay RHORC is offering a 3-1/2 day Healthcare Educator's Institute to be offered November 1-4, 2005 at the Holiday Inn, Santa Clara, California. Dr. Stephen Brookfield, St. Thomas University and other speakers will present to health educators on interactive learning strategies, diversity, critical thinking, and other

topics to provide tools to develop lesson plans. North Valley (NOVA), local Workforce Improvement Board contracted with South Bay RHORC to offer RN-National Certification Licensing Exam (NCLEX) Review Courses. Two classes (40-hours each) were offered in June and July 2005 servicing over 50 students. Plans are being made to offer a 120-hour class in March 2006 to a minimum of thirty students who have failed the RN-NCLEX at least once.

A location-specific website to help nurses find CEU's is operating in Region 3 as a pilot project. The project hopes to provide a service for nurses to find CEU's in their area while advertising RHORC as a location where education and training can be found. You may visit to register and post classes being offered in the counties of San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, and Santa Cruz.

Silicon Valley Center for Health Professions is a collaborative effort forged between five community college districts, three workforce improvement boards, the Northern/Central Hospital Council, San Jose State University, NASA, and RHORC to offer a new way of educating nurses and allied health workforce through regular education, contract education, and hospital loan repayment. The business plan is near completion, and support for this new regional approach to provide education in a competitive environment is strong. One of the many goals for the center will be to increase nursing graduates within the region by over 200 per year.

Interior Bay RHORC

Patty Perkins, Director
RHORC Region 4 assisted with the development of two successfully awarded Governor's Nurse Education Initiative grants for the Center for Nursing Expansion/Innovation. Region 4 received two grants, one to CCSF and one to a collaborative of Napa Valley College and Solano Community College. RHORC Director, Patty Perkins, was one of the peer reviewers for this grant.

In August the Moore Foundation funded collaboration with Sutter's California Pacific Medical Center launched a new evening/weekend A.D.N. program at CCSF. As part of new and existing faculty development in support of this program, RHORC assisted with the recruitment of Contra Costa College A.D.N. Director, Sandra Castillo, Ed.D. as part of a four-part series on critical thinking in nursing education. The RHORC Director is also a member of the faculty resource center component of the Moore Foundation-funded shared services system, a collaboration of CINHC and the Foundation for the California Community Colleges.

Finally, the RHORC Region 4 Director will be presenting findings with Region 3 RHORC Director Matthew Grayson from the successfully replicated LVN Refresher course at the upcoming CCCAOE meeting (October 2005), and will give a presentation on the Student Success Kit at the National Council on Workforce Education meeting in San Antonio, TX (October 2005).

Central RHORC

Kathleen Schrader, Director
The Central RHORC has implemented its Emergency Nurse Training Program (ENTP) across the Central California region with 27 participants. Funded by an Industry Driven Regional Collaborative Grant, response to the course has been very positive with students reporting high degrees of satisfaction with the course content and method of delivery (via live interactive web-link). A four-week Basic EKG online course preceded the ENTP course.

The ENTP program began July 16, 2005 and is slated to finish in June of 2006. As an interactive course, students can logon from work or home at the designated time to receive instruction and interact with the course instructor. This approach circumvents the need for a specially equipped distance education classroom and avoids the technical problems inherent in video conferencing lectures. The goal of the project is to educate 100 RNs or student nurses in emergency nursing. Seven (7) hospitals in Region 5 are participating in this innovative program. Clinical lab training will occur at these sites using equipment provided by the grant.

North/Far North RHORC

Linda Zorn, Director
Linda Zorn, Director of the Butte College RHORC has facilitated two DACUM's in the mental health area. The first was the Substance Abuse Mental Health Counselor DACUM May 9-10, in partnership with the California Institute for Mental Health Human Resources Project. Patty Perkins was the co-facilitator. The second was the Psychiatric Technician DACUM June 27-28, in partnership with the California Department of Mental Health. Mary O'Connor assisted as co-facilitator.

A partnership with the Butte College Office of Contract Education continues with the following educational opportunities: Patient Safety; Sustainable Leadership Designs; Vital Tools; and Preceptor Instructor Workshop. Two series 1) Communication and Conflict Management Series and 2) Continuous Performance Improvement both targeted to Health Care employees are also a part of the fall 2005 offerings.

