

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for Practical Nursing and Nursing Assistant Curriculum Review Project

Request: The State Board is asked to approve an allocation of \$74,672 to Rowan-Cabarrus Community College to support the nine month funding for the Practical Nursing and Nursing Assistant Curriculum Review Project. Rowan-Cabarrus Community College will provide fiduciary management, statewide coordination, and project oversight to ensure that curriculum and professional development outcomes are met.

Background Information: Forty of our community colleges are currently approved to offer the Practical Nursing (D45660) curriculum. The current standard became effective Fall 2000 and the standard's core courses became effective Summer 1997. Thirty-three of our community colleges are currently approved to offer the Nursing Assistant (C45480) curriculum. The current standard became effective Spring 2006. The majority of the Nursing Assistant courses became effective Summer 1997. A review and update of both of the curriculums and related courses is necessary to ensure the quality of the programs.

In 2008, the Associate Degree Nursing (A45110) program was revised from a medical model into a concept-based curriculum. Concept-based nursing education focuses on organizing concepts and exemplars across various population groups and environments while emphasizing the development of critical thinking skills in diverse situations. The current Practical Nursing curriculum is based on the medical model, which focuses on the physical and biological aspects of specific diseases and conditions. A revision of the Practical Nursing program is needed to provide a seamless concept-based transition. The 2010, Institute of Medicine's *Future of Nursing Leading Change, Advancing Health* summary report recommended: "Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression."

The healthcare sector is among the fastest growing industrial sectors on a national level, with an expected 3.5 million new jobs to be created between 2010 and 2020. (*Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Projections by Major Occupational Group*) Today's growing population of elderly Americans, along with the number of individuals with disabilities or other chronic conditions, is outpacing the number of workers with the knowledge and skills to effectively care for them. It is estimated seventy to eighty percent of the hands-on assistance to individuals with long-term and personal assistance needs are provided by direct care workers.

Method of Allocation: A Request for Proposals was sent to all community college presidents and chief academic officers. Rowan-Cabarrus Community College was the only college that submitted a proposal. The proposal was individually read and evaluated by a selection committee which included a Community College President, two Community College Chief Academic Officers, Academic Programs System Office staff, and Career and Technical Education System Office staff.

The proposal was reviewed and scored individually based on the following criteria: identification of needs/emerging issues; project design and implementation plan; outcomes/project evaluation; leadership, capacity, and commitment; and budget. The proposal was found to be in alignment with the goals of the Practical Nursing and Nursing Assistant Curriculum Review Project.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is available from the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

Allocation Amount and Time Period: The allocation of \$74,672 is for October 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014.

Contact

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