

Partners in Nursing of Central Illinois

PIN OF CI

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Unique program assists central IL nurses in PhD program who will serve as nurse educators
- Highlights of project successes
- Central Illinois partners engaged in national forums for nursing solutions

For more info on anything you read here, contact Kelli Hill (see page 2.)

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New Program Provides Assistance for Regional PhD Nursing Students

PIN of CI partners have been working to develop financial assistance for central Illinois nurses entering a PhD in nursing program. The new Nurse Faculty Capacity Grant (NFCG) will be available to students this fall. The 2004 CSSI study of nursing workforce issues revealed a shortage of PhD nurse educators as an initial bottleneck to addressing the demand for nursing faculty in central IL. Mennonite College of Nursing at ISU will begin offering a PhD in nursing this fall, the only PhD in nursing program in Illinois outside of the Chicago area. PhD prepared nurse educators are needed to instruct masters level nursing courses in central IL schools of nursing, which in turn produce nurse faculty for

undergraduate programs. This grass roots initiative will begin addressing our nursing educational program capacity.

The Region 16 workforce investment board (WIB), administered by Career Link of Bloomington, approved offering incentives to regional nurses in the new PhD program, in exchange for a commitment to serving as a nurse educator upon graduation. Additionally, the nurse's current employer will provide matching funds. The employer benefits from the commitment of a dedicated employee with advanced skills. The requirement to serve in an educational capacity will be fulfilled with the current employer, which may be a school of nursing or healthcare facility serving as a clinical in-

struction site.

Incentives offered through Career Link and the Region 16 WIB consist of IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) funds for local workforce development. State DCEO representatives encouraged central IL to pilot this unique initiative, and PIN programs in several other states have expressed interest in replicating the NFCG.

Collaborative efforts of MCN at ISU, Career Link, Region 16 WIB, and regional schools of nursing and healthcare employers will begin addressing the long-term issue of nursing education capacity through the NFCG program.

Highlights: Recent PIN of Central IL Achievements

- Over \$130,000 committed specifically for 07-08 non-traditional nursing students from region.
- Nurse Faculty Capacity Grant (NFCG) developed to provide incentives for regional PhD nursing students who will serve as nurse educators upon graduation (details above).
- First accelerated nursing program cohort graduates 100% (8/8) in 12/07 and realizes 100% employment as RNs in central Illinois; 2008 cohort expands to 20 students.
- Regional long term care facilities offer first scholarships for students pursuing bachelors in nursing.
- Workforce investment Board allows funding of second/third degree nursing students in central IL.
- Regional bank executives develop financial advice for regional, non-traditional nursing students.



Central IL PIN Partners Have National Impact

Several PIN of Central Illinois partners are involved at a national level as leaders in nursing workforce initiatives. In a June 23 news release from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Judith Woodruff, national program director of RWJF's Partners Investing in Nursing's Future program, cited PIN of CI as a paramount example. "The (PIN of CI) project represents innovation in terms of its partnerships and its focus," stated Woodruff. Though twenty other sites across the nation bring together multiple organizational partners and funders, Woodruff chose the central Illinois project as the model. PIN of CI Director **Kelli Hill** was interviewed about central Illinois partnerships and the complete article can be found at <http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=32091>.

Additional PIN of CI partners are engaging central IL in national nursing education capacity initiatives. **Dr. Brenda Jeffers**, Director of Graduate Programs and Research

and Scholarly Activities, MCN at ISU, is a representative of Team Illinois, our state's panel of nursing education leaders. Team Illinois was recently chosen as one of 18 teams to attend the national Nursing Education Capacity Summit convened by AARP, RWJF, and the U.S. Department of Labor. **Dr. Susan Campbell** of OSF St. Francis Medical Center also represented Team Illinois in Washington, D.C. Other partners providing summit input include **Dr. Sara Campbell**, Interim Dean, MCN at ISU, and **Dr. Donna Hartweg**, Director, IWU School of Nursing, and Kelli Hill. "Expanding nursing education capacity is a state priority," said Jeffers. "The summit provides an opportunity to share our successes with others across the country and provides a forum to learn about the innovative strategies used to increase education capacity in other states.

In yet another national discussion with nursing workforce experts,



Warren Cheatham of Career Link represented the Region 16 central IL workforce investment board. This teleconference with the Northwest Health Foundation and representatives from four other states was the first in a series planned with the federal Department of Labor. The intent is to share successes created with various state workforce development agencies and to suggest ways which current policies/procedures could support regional nursing workforce efforts.



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Partners Investing in Nursing's Future is a nationwide collaborative effort of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Northwest Health Foundation to encourage regions to address their local nursing shortages through community partnerships. Partners in Nursing of Central Illinois (PIN of CI) received a two year grant to oversee these regional efforts. The PIN of CI is led by the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation and Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University.

For more information on the national program, visit www.partnersinnursing.org.

