



Federal grants fund 3 WVU School of Nursing projects totaling more than \$1,500,000

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – The WVU School of Nursing has been awarded grant money from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for projects to expand nursing education and improve quality of life for West Virginians. The funding outcomes include alleviating shortages of nurses delivering critical care and improving healthcare for women and elders in rural areas. This funding is the first received under the School of Nursing's new Quality of Life Institute initiatives that work cooperatively with a number of outstanding WVU centers--Prevention Research Center, Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute—along with the Rural Health Education Partnership rural rotations for students preparing for health professions.

Georgia L. Narsavage, Ph.D., F.A.A.N., dean of the School of Nursing, is principal investigator on a \$804,373 five-year project to improve the recruitment and retention of nurses in critical care. Co-Investigator, Ms. Mary Fanning, R.N., C.N.A.A., Nursing Administration Director leads the Ruby Memorial WVUH partnership on this grant. The money will be used to implement a competency-based program for new nurses in acute and critical care. Nurses will develop skills through mentoring, hands-on patient-care and instruction including 30 hours of training in high-tech simulation labs. Their goal is to orient at least 100 nurses in less than three years to lessen nursing shortages in intensive care units, which have had as high as 30% vacancy rates.

Nan S. Leslie, Ph.D., W.H.N.P., a professor in the Health Promotion/Risk Reduction Department, is principal investigator on a \$750,856 project that will create two new tracks – geriatrics and women's health – in the advanced practice nursing (APN) curriculum and move advanced nursing education to the new Doctor of Nursing Practice level over three years. "By providing these new APN tracks integrated with doctoral education, we will be able to produce practitioners with cultural sensitivity and highly developed leadership skills more quickly than our current educational programs allow," Narsavage said. "It's important that the people of West Virginia have increased access to APNs in the workforce, because our state is predominantly rural, and most counties are in areas identified as medically underserved."

A third grant, led by Mary Jane Smith, Ph.D., R.N., Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs, provides \$38,214 in stipends for nurse practitioner graduate students in 2008-2009.

For more information about the WVU School of Nursing see <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/son/>

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