



NEWS RELEASE

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**THE FOUNDATION FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES RECEIVES
\$8.2 MILLION GRANT FROM GORDON AND BETTY MOORE FOUNDATION TO
SUPPORT NURSING EDUCATION**

SACRAMENTO, Calif., July 10, 2006 -- The Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC) has been awarded a three and one-half year, \$8.27 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to implement five regional nursing simulation centers. These high-tech laboratories will be used by hospitals and nursing education programs throughout the Bay Area. FCCC, working in conjunction with the California Institute for Nursing and Health Care (CINHC), is the fiscal sponsor for the grant and is overseeing development of the project.

According to Brenda Epperly, MSN, RN, FCCC Director of Health Care Programs, "Students today are excited about and more comfortable with computers and technology. These centers are an exciting opportunity to offer nursing students high-tech yet practical experience that is directly transferable to patient care."

The Moore Foundation's Betty Irene Moore Nursing Initiative focuses on improving the quality of nursing-related patient care in five Bay Area counties: Alameda, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara.

"The five simulation centers being developed by the FCCC and CINHC will be part of a larger Moore Foundation effort to combat the growing shortage of qualified nurses in regional hospitals," said Deloras Jones, executive director of CINHC. "The partnership between these three organizations is helping to develop a more highly trained nursing workforce – one that is responsive to the needs of today's patients."

Using hi-fidelity manikins, virtual reality computer simulation centers, and thorough debriefing with an instructor after a simulation, the Regional Simulation Centers will enhance nursing curriculum by offering students first-hand experience in a wide-variety of simulated clinical situations. Students will

be able to transfer knowledge from their education programs into skills and to practice these skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Planning is underway to create simulation scenarios, research a faculty development plan, and coordinate efforts through creation of a governing body – the Bay Area Simulation Collaborative (BASC), which will be comprised of representatives from nursing schools and hospitals. BASC will set standards, facilitate training, and shares information with other schools and hospitals.

The Regional Simulation Centers grant is the third awarded to FCCC by the Moore Foundation. The first grant, awarded in September 2004, enabled FCCC and CINHC to develop the Centralized Clinical Placement System—an online system designed to improve clinical placement by matching students with hospitals. The second grant, awarded in August 2005, supported the creation of the Centralized Faculty Resource Center (www.iTEACHnursing.org), an online service that connects new and part-time educators with nursing schools.

About the Foundation for California Community Colleges

Foundation for California Community Colleges is the sole official auxiliary to the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors, Chancellor, and System Office. The Foundation for California Community Colleges is a team of dedicated people who work within a unique structure that enables it to bring expertise and resources to benefit, support and enhance the missions of the California Community College System. Additional information about the Foundation for California Community Colleges is available www.foundationccc.org.

About CINHC

CINHC is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to collaboratively developing statewide solutions to a critical nursing shortage and related nursing issues that affect the health of all Californians. For more information visit www.cinhc.org

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