



FutureThink News

A publication of the FutureThink Institute and the Ohio Hospital Association • www.futurethink.org • www.ohanet.org

May 4, 2006

Berger Health System First Class Graduates

Through partnership between Berger Health System and Ohio University – Chillicothe, 19 students graduated on March 17 as the first class of OU-Chillicothe Berger Nursing Program.

According to Sandy Rudawsky, Berger Health System chief operating officer, the program has been a life-changing opportunity for these students. In March 2003, OU-Chillicothe and Berger formally established the “OU-C Berger campus”, 30 students were enrolled. Students completed classroom studies at the same time that they completed their clinical “hands-on” classes, which required lab facilities. Berger has worked with Circleville High School to let the students use the high school science lab after hours.

A large number of the non-traditional student body were older, with full-time jobs and family obligations. Berger made accommodations, creating flexible scheduling for classes and clinical rotations. Berger also played an active role in the development of the curriculum for the program and established a nursing professorship at OU-Chillicothe, which gives Berger an opportunity to be involved in key program decisions as well as have direct access to nursing faculty. With the critical shortage of nurses across the country, the program is a ‘win-win’ for all involved. Students gain a professional career that pays well, Berger is able to recruit the nurses it needs and the local economy benefits from the good health care jobs created in Pickaway County.

In addition to the 19 graduating students, an additional seven students are set to participate in Ohio University-Chillicothe’s traditional ceremony in June. Berger has accepted 32 new students into its second class.

The OU-Chillicothe Berger Nursing Program is available to recent high school graduates as well as individuals already in the workforce. If you would like more information regarding the program, contact Nicole Esker, BHS Human Resources, at (740) 420-8343 or Charlotte McManus, OU-C interim coordinator for A.D. Nursing, at (740) 774-7281. (Source: Berger Press Release)

The Third Frontier Project Commitment

Begun in 2002, Ohio’s Third Frontier Project is the state’s 10-year, \$1.6 billion commitment to expanding Ohio’s high-tech research capabilities and promoting innovation and company formation that will create high-paying jobs for generations to come. Efforts of the Third Frontier Project are geared toward building world-class research capacity, supporting the development of new products through early state capital funding and financing advanced manufacturing technologies to help existing industries become more productive.

A significant focus of the Third Frontier Project is innovation in biotechnology and bioinformatics. Although Ohio’s three “Cs” (Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland) have taken an early lead in biotechnology, Dayton has shown real leadership by combining Wright State University’s strengths in information technology with strong corporate partners.

Although Ohio’s Third Frontier Project is not directly related to workforce development at this time, it is worth watching for potential alignment with FutureThink’s vision for the delivery of health care in our state. For instance, Creative Action LLC (Akron) received a \$175,000 award to develop and commercialize an

intervention game that reduces behavior problems and increases social engagement between leaders and patients with a variety of dementia problems. When developed, the game has the potential to create a preferred future for those with dementia, as well as for those who care for them. Although this is one of the smaller grants funded by the Third Frontier, it is one example of potential impact on the future of patient care delivery.

On May 12, announcements will be made about the next round of funding, and projects involving personalized health care and bioinformatics have a strong chance of being funded. For more information about what's been funded and for an announcement about the grants after the May 12 release, visit: www.thirdfrontier.com.

MedCentral Nursing Students Move Into Residence Hall

44 nursing students moving into the new MedCentral College of Nursing's apartment-style residence hall this fall will feel right at home.

The accommodations are 1,400-square-foot apartments that will host four students, with a large kitchen stocked with a full-sized refrigeration, microwave, disposal, stove, pantry and breakfast bar. The students will even have their own balcony, complete with patio furniture.

The college plans to take possession of the \$2.4 million building by Aug. 1. Students are very excited to move in, because they feel it is closer to the college and will bring fellowship with the hospital community they are working with. (Source: Mansfield News Journal)

St. Rita's Offers New Garbs

Many patients can tell an uncomfortable story of being poked and prodded, tested and re-tested and examined and re-examined, but perhaps the worst part about being a patient is the dreaded hospital gown. Diane Pacetti recently told readers about her experience in the article, "St. Rita's new duds a 'modest' victory for patients". She spoke of a wheelchair ride during which she felt like cargo, and of hard-to-catch doctors, but she did not have to face the hospital gown. "If I'd been in a hospital gown, I might never have recovered," said Diane.

And thanks to St. Rita's nursing staff, fears of the exposing hospital gown might very well be a thing of the past. For all patients of the hospital for the past two years St. Rita's nursing staff has been designing new gowns, tops, pajama bottoms and robes, which will come in light blue and a variety of sizes. The new outfits are made of more durable material, which means less replacement, and the patient clothing features telemetry pockets, allowing caregivers to access IV sites without exposing the patient.

The hospital staff will also have new garbs, all of which have the hospital's core values of compassion, excellence, human dignity, justice, sacredness of life and service embroidered on them. The hope is that patients will ask about the printing and perhaps remind the staff of their goals, recommitting them daily to the principals of the hospital. (Source: The Lima News)

Nursing Rewards

Hospitals are encouraged to participate in the Nursing Rewards nurse recruitment campaign, created by the Ohio Board of Nursing. Hospitals can help bolster the pipeline of nurses by displaying a new campaign poster in lobbies, waiting rooms, doctors' and medical offices, on community bulletin boards or in other high-traffic public areas. The purpose of the poster is to drive men and women of all ages and ethnicities to the campaign Web site at www.nursingrewards.org – where they can explore the many benefits a nursing career offers. You can download the posters at www.ohanet.org/pr/pro_link/attachments/030206.pdf. Other workforce resources are available in OHA's Workforce Forum at www.ohanet.org/workforce/.

Report Examines Aging Population Impact

A new report by the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CAWS) at the State University of New York at Albany examines how a projected surge in older Americans could impact the nation's health care workforce in coming years. According to CHWS Director Jean Moore, the older adult population will be larger, more ethnically diverse, and have a higher education level than previous generations. The demand for health services is growing, and large number of health care workers will be retiring, making ongoing shortages likely. The nursing shortage was at six percent in 2005, and it is projected to grow to a 29 percent shortage by 2020. Also lacking is enough people trained as geriatric specialists to meet the needs of the growing cohort of older Americans. (Source: AHA NewsNow)

Supply of Registered Nurses Increases

The number of licensed registered nurses (RNs) in the U.S. has increased by 7.9 percent since 2000, reaching an estimate of 2.9 million according to preliminary findings from the 2004 National Sample Survey of RNs. The numbers are higher than the 5.2 increase seen from 1996-2000, but lower than the 14.2 increase from 1992-1996. Approximately 83 percent of licensed RNs were employed in nursing in 2004, 58.3 percent of them were full-time. The average earnings increased 12.8 percent from 2000, after adjustment for inflation, while the average age increased to 46.8 from 45.2. The survey is done every four years by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Health Professions. (Source: AHA NewsNow)

Senators Call for Increased Funding for Nursing Programs

54 senators urged congressional appropriators in a letter April 4 to increase funding for nursing workforce development programs to \$175 million in fiscal year 2007 from \$150 million this year. They note that 72 percent of hospitals reported a nurse shortage in 2004 and that demand for RNs is projected to grow by 29 percent through 2014 as patient needs grow and nurses retire. The senators stated that despite the difficult fiscal environment, Congress must do more to address this crisis. They note that the Health Resources and Services Administration turned away 82 percent of applicants for the Nurse Education Loan Repayment Program and 98 percent of applicants for the Nursing Scholarship Program in FY 2005 due to insufficient funding, and that schools of nursing turned away at least 32,617 qualified applicants in 2005 due to a shortage of faculty and other constraints. A similar letter was sent by nearly 160 representatives to the House appropriators. (Source: AHA NewsNow)

North Carolina Center for Nursing Release Survey Results

The North Carolina Center for Nursing, the first nursing agency to be supported by the state, recently did a survey and posted results about the nursing shortage in their state. The survey was sent to hospitals, nursing homes, home care and hospice agencies and public health departments, asking about the amount of time it took for these facilities to hire and fill nursing positions. The study reported, on average, hospitals need about 8-10 weeks to fill RN needs, with a longer time requirement to fill positions on medical-surgical floors, adult ICUs and ER departments. Public health departments suffer an even longer vacancy period needing 10-11 weeks to fill positions. Home health agencies are waiting up to 17 weeks for RNs with previous home health care experience and all facilities are reporting extreme difficulty hiring nurse management and administrator positions.

This shortage in nurses, and the unprecedented vacancy rates in facilities, directly affects patient care. The lack of nurse managers and administrators is adding to the difficulty, due to management style and value changes. (Source: North Carolina Center for Nursing)

Hospital Patient Tower Designed to Improve Work Environment, Patient Care

Officials at York Hospital in Pennsylvania say the facility's new patient care tower creates an efficient work environment designed to improve patient care, according to *Health Facilities Management*. To determine the best layout and care method for the new space, nurses and architects studied how nursing units have evolved through time, consulted health experts and visited other facilities. As a result of the research, the new \$111.1 million, seven-story tower groups large, private patient rooms into pods of six,

with a decentralized nursing station for each pod to decrease the distance nurses must walk to and from patient rooms. Each patient room features a sink and supply area for nurses, called a caregiver zone, and a family zone with a sleeper sofa and a reclining lounge chair to accommodate overnight guests. Patient bathrooms are positioned close to hospital beds to reduce falls and feature “European-style showers” to help nurses safely bathe patients. In addition, officials say the pod layout means that a number of new patient rooms have corner windows, offering patients more natural light and view. (Source: AONE E News Update)

The FutureThink Institute is an initiative of the Ohio Hospital Association, working toward creating long-term solutions for Ohio’s health care system. The FutureThink Institute takes a multidimensional approach to designing better ways to deliver care and changing the demand for health care professionals in order to achieve better results for our communities. Learn more about the FutureThink Institute, and view the FutureThink News archives at www.futurethink.org.

Editor’s note: Please share news or comments with Jean Scholz, jeans@ohanet.org, or call 614.221.7614. To be removed from this mailing list, please reply to this e-mail with “Unsubscribe” in the subject line.