

DATE: July 17, 2003

SUBJECT: Status of Nursing Education Issues

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In October 2002, a forum was collaboratively organized by THEC, TBR and UT staff to discuss concerns regarding nursing faculty shortages and workforce shortages. Subsequent to the forum, various initiatives are underway across the state to address these issues, which include the following:

- The Tennessee Board of Regents recently surveyed all nursing programs across the state to determine the capacity levels. All institutions indicated that they were at full capacity. This also includes LPN programs at Tennessee Technology Centers that have waiting lists. Additional funding was expressed as the means to which program capacity could be expanded.
- Johnson and Johnson has partnered with the Tennessee Nursing Association, the Tennessee Hospital Association and the Tennessee Center for Nursing, to have a fund raising event. All expenses will be covered by Johnson and Johnson and all proceeds raised will go for scholarships to students going into the nursing profession.
- Tennessee State University is expanding their Associate Degree in Nursing to Nashville State Technical Community College. The Healthcare Corporation of America is making this possible by setting up a laboratory at NSCC and supplying all instructional equipment.
- East Tennessee State University recently announced that they will partner with Mountain States Health Alliance to provide an opportunity for eighteen students to earn a degree in nursing in 18 months. This initiative is designed for people who already hold a baccalaureate degree, but want to change careers and become a nurse. The accelerated program will begin in 2004. To be admitted to the program, students must have a minimum 2.6 GPA and must have completed or be in the process of completing four prerequisite classes: microbiology, human anatomy, human physiology, and probability and statistics.
- In December 2002, the Tennessee Center for Nursing began distribution of a recruitment campaign video aimed at middle and high school age students. Over 30 hospitals have purchased the videos to use in schools in their geographic area. The Department of Education, through their health science teachers, is also interested in using the videos in schools.

- Earlier this month, the Tennessee Center for Nursing entered into an agreement with Hall Communications, Inc., a minority marketing and communications company in Knoxville, to develop plans for a campaign aimed specifically to recruit African Americans into the nursing profession.
- The Tennessee Center for Nursing has adopted the Magnet Hospital concept as an initiative to increase the retention of nurses in the workplace. The Tennessee Hospital Association, the Tennessee Nursing Association and the Tennessee Center for Nursing are sponsoring a conference in September 2003, targeting health care facilities to address the standards and criteria of the Magnet Hospital Accreditation Program to improve the work environment and reduce turnover and vacancy rates for nurses.