



Florida Department of Education

**Division of Community Colleges
Nursing Degree Program Report
December 2002**

**Presented to
House Subcommittee on Higher Education
January 21, 2003**



REQUIRED BY HB 27E

- In Specific Item # 161 Proviso Language
- Priority on expanding access to undergraduate nursing degree programs
- Address how colleges plan to increase number of nursing graduates
- Submit consolidated report and recommendations

CAPACITY

- 27 OF 28 colleges offer A.S. Degree in Nursing (R.N.)
- Current capacity is 4,917
- Planned capacity is 6,203



Strategies to Increase Capacity

- Admit class twice/year
- Non traditional scheduling
- Advanced placement tracks
- Cooperative programs with hospitals
- Dual enrollment programs with SUS
- Identify alternative clinical sites
- Increase recruitment of faculty

Strategies to Increase Enrollment

- Vigorous advertising and marketing jointly with hospital nurse recruiters
- Reduce number of academic prerequisites to admission
- Conduct Health Career Forums or Career Days with health care providers
- Review admissions policies

BARRIERS

- Lack of Qualified Faculty
 - Shortage of M.S.N.s
 - Average age of current faculty is 52
 - Nursing faculty salaries
 - No source of recurring funding for enrollment growth
- Lack of Clinical Spaces
 - Compete with other programs for spaces
 - Rural areas limited clinical opportunities for specialties

BARRIERS

- Lack of Classroom & Lab Space
 - Need new and/or renovated space to expand
 - Increased funding necessary

RETENTION STRATEGIES

- Mentoring Programs
- Flexible Scheduling & Methods of Delivery
- Individual “Success Plans”
- Tutoring Programs
- Increase Financial Support to Students
- Peer Support Activities
- Review Admissions Criteria & Intervention Strategies

EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

- Several colleges receive dollars from local hospitals to fund faculty positions
- Many other sources of assistance
 - Federal Grants including the H1-B Grant
 - Scholarship funding from health care providers
 - Provision of classroom & clinical sites
 - Equipment donations

EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE



- External funding amounts to more than \$5.5 million dollars

OTHER INITIATIVES

- Nurse Refresher Courses
- Web Based & On-line Curriculum
- Area Consortia to deal with health care issues
- RN to BSN 2+2 Career Ladder Programs
- BSN at St. Petersburg College
- “Teddy Bear Clinic”
- Creation of a Children’s Book
- “Nurse Camp”
- “ A Day in the Life of a Nurse” Program

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish Source of Recurring Funding for New Faculty
- Identify Increased Capital Outlay Resources Targeted to Nursing
- Identify Alternative Clinical Placements
- Recruitment of Qualified Applicants
 - Fund Sunshine Workforce Solutions Grant Program Established in HB 519