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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO THE POINT: Rutgers College of Nursing's New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing to host the National Forum for State Nursing Workforce Centers annual meeting

NEWARK, N.J. –The New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing, based at the College of Nursing at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, will host the National Forum for State Nursing Workforce Centers annual meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Jersey City April 27-28. The conference is funded in part by a \$50,000 planning grant from the New Jersey Health Initiatives program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

“The theme for this conference is ‘Taking the Long View from Evidence to Policy,’” said Geri Dickson, executive director of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing. “The conference will focus on how we can use evidence collected through research to develop an evidence-based policy to bring change in nursing care for the patients.”

The Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers is a group of state nursing workforce entities that support the advancement of new as well as existing state level nursing workforce initiatives and the sharing of best practices in nursing workforce research, planning, development and formulation of workforce policy.

The conference will have keynote talks by Sean Clark, assistant professor, and Julie Sochalski, associate professor, both from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and Julia Plotnick, visiting professor at Rutgers College of Nursing and an administrative consultant to the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing. The conference will also feature concurrent sessions and a poster session.

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The conference is open to nurse practitioners, educators, administrators, health services researchers and policy makers. For more information, contact The New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at (973) 353-1307 or via e-mail at njccn@andromeda.rutgers.edu.

The New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing, funded jointly through a public/private partnership between the state of New Jersey and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, develops and disseminates objective information and provides an ongoing strategy for a better allocation of state resources toward the development of the nursing workforce. The center's mission builds on Dickson's previous work as project manager for the Colleagues in Caring project, one of 20 national sites to address nursing workforce issues funded jointly by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and New Jersey healthcare stakeholders.

From its headquarters at Rutgers-Newark, Rutgers College of Nursing offers a broad range of academic programs on all three Rutgers campuses. The college offers a master's program with unique practitioner clinical specialties, and is the first to offer a doctoral (Ph.D) nursing degree in New Jersey.

