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**New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing Hosts Invitational Conference:  
Bringing Oregon to New Jersey**

The New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing (NJCCN) will be hosting "Preparing Nurses for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," a special invitational conference to be held at the Woodbridge Hilton, Iselin, NJ on Friday, November 16, 2007. The focus of this conference will be to bring fresh ideas to New Jersey about building consensus around a competency-based nursing curriculum, which has been successfully developed and implemented by nurse educators in Oregon.

NJCCN was established through a public/private partnership between the State of New Jersey and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), to serve as a future-oriented research and development organization focused on issues of the nursing workforce and their impact on patient safety and quality of care. The Center aims to develop and implement common goals in the state's nursing education and practice, through collaboration and consensus. NJCCN is located in the College of Nursing on the Newark Campus of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

The November 16<sup>th</sup> conference will serve as the beginning of many dialogues concerning New Jersey nursing education. To begin these discussions, NJCCN has invited Christine Tanner, RN, PhD and Paula Gubrud-Howe, EdD, RN, who are the architects of the Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE), to share their expertise with the New Jersey nursing community.

OCNE was formed in response to the critical nurse shortage faced by Oregon ([www.ocne.org](http://www.ocne.org)) and was designed to be a long-term solution to the state's nurse shortage. As such, it is an effort to increase capacity in schools of nursing by making the best use of scarce faculty, classrooms and clinical training resources in the delivery of a standard curriculum on twelve campuses, including eight community colleges and the four campuses of Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) School of Nursing.

Drs. Tanner and Gubrud-Howe will be instrumental at the upcoming conference in NJCCN's effort to explore the successful consensus-building process that led to the design of Oregon's standardized competency-based professional nurse curriculum. During the conference, participants will also share an opportunity to contrast and compare the characteristics of the healthcare arena, the schools of nursing, and regulations in Oregon and in New Jersey. A key objective on November 16<sup>th</sup> will be to analyze the issues that need to be addressed to allow for a similar process unique to New Jersey's nursing needs.

Also participating in the leadership of the conference will be: Susan Bakewell-Sachs, CRNP, PhD, dean of The College of New Jersey School of Nursing, Health & Exercise Science; Judith Woodruff, JD, director of strategic initiatives for Northwest Health Foundation and program director for Partner's Investing in Nursing's Future, a RWJF funded program; and Geri L. Dickson, PhD, RN, Executive Director of NJCCN.

Linda Mather, MA, EdD, president of Forums Institute for Public Policy, will also be on hand at the conference to facilitate the group discussion. This comprehensive nurse shortage report by Linda Flynn, PhD, RN, "The State of the Nursing Workforce in New Jersey," will be distributed at this event.

The conference will be funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

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