

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TENNESSEE CENTER FOR NURSING

Who and What is the Center?

Agency Overview

Originally organized in 1996 as the Tennessee Health Care Consortium for Nursing (THCN), TCN is a result of the Colleagues in Caring grant, an initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In 2001 THCN was transformed into the Tennessee Center for Nursing, Inc, a 501[c]3 non-profit organization with funding provided primarily through a contract with the Tennessee Department of Health and a variety of grants through BlueCross BlueShield Community Trust, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and donations from individuals and organizations.

As a statewide organization, TCN is composed of nursing educators, health care providers, insurers, business representatives, policy makers, consumers and representatives of professional nursing organizations. TCN has a documented history of data collection, analysis, dissemination, and has made recommendations to and worked collaboratively with state organizations to refine data collection instruments for licensed nurses and licensed healthcare facilities.

MISSION STATEMENT: The Tennessee Center for Nursing (TCN) is an independent statewide nursing workforce center whose mission is to guide the ongoing development of a diverse and qualified nursing workforce to meet the healthcare needs of Tennesseans through research, education, recruitment and retention efforts, advocacy and public policy activities.

PROGRAMS: TN Clinical Placement System

TN Graduate Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program

TN Leadership Institute for Nursing Excellence

TN Faculty Institute for Nursing Excellence

TN Simulation Alliance & Simulation Center

TN Clinical Placement System: TCPS began as a partnership between schools of nursing, allied healthcare professional schools, healthcare facilities and other healthcare entities in which the partners collaborated to improve the efficacy and capacity of clinical placements through the use of a centralized, coordinated, on-line clinical placement and orientation system. The TCPS consists of three parts; the on-line clinical placement program called StudentMax, the Clinical Passport, and the Program Evaluation. Clinical Passport provides students and faculty with access to an on-line orientation program that standardized facility orientation and requirements for clinical activities. The Program Evaluation offers data collection and analysis for quality, satisfaction, change in practice and return on investment for the student, faculty and facility.

TN Graduate Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program: TCN's research found that a major barrier to increasing the number of nurses in Tennessee was the shortage of nursing faculty. We discovered that over 2,000 qualified applicants were being turned away from nursing school each year due to a faculty shortage. Healthcare officials along with Senator Randy McNally and Representative Joanne Favors sponsored a bill to put into place a program that would assist

Registered Nurses obtain their upper graduate degrees in nursing in exchange for time serving as a faculty member in a Tennessee College or University. When Legislators passed SB0447 in 2006, Governor Phil Bredesen challenged TCN to raise the \$1.4 million dollars needed jump start the program. TCN rose to the challenge and through some major donations from healthcare leaders raised the initial funds to enroll 100 eligible Registered Nurses into Graduate School. Since the 2007-2008 school year, 257 awards have been given out.

TN Leadership Institute for Nursing Excellence(T-LINE): Providing a way to support leadership growth in clinical registered nurse staff, this four day, all expense paid institute introduced RN's to many of the competencies and skills necessary to become effective leaders both in the workplace and in the community.

TN Faculty Institute for Nursing Excellence (FINE): A joint effort between Vanderbilt University and TCN, the FINE supports leadership growth and educational excellence in nursing faculty. Focusing on preparing new faculty, particularly those who have been in clinical position, FINE introduces many on the skills necessary to become effective educational leaders in schools of nursing.

TN Simulation Alliance & Simulation Center: Bringing the world of simulation to nurse educators of Tennessee, the Simulation Alliance began as a group of nurse educators who wanted to share their expertise in simulation with others in the state. As the Alliance developed, the Simulation Center was created as a central location for communication, collaboration and sharing with links to current resources, scenarios, websites, conferences and an in depth look at what is currently being practiced in nursing education with simulation.