



C A L I F O R N I A

Labor & Workforce Development Agency

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Date: June 2, 2009

News Release No.: 09-09

California Labor and Workforce Development Agency Releases Its 2008 Nurse Education Initiative Annual Report

SACRAMENTO – Today the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) released its 3rd annual report for the California Nurse Education Initiative (NEI) – originally a 5 year, \$90 million public private partnership that was announced by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2005. The NEI focuses on expansion of nurse education capacity, faculty development, and student support services including loan forgiveness and additional funding for nursing schools.

The 2008 report includes the following accomplishments realized between 2005-2008:

- Graduates:** 9,580 RNs graduated in 2008, reflecting an increase of over 54% in RN graduates over the past four years.
- Enrollments:** More than 23,500 students are currently enrolled in California nursing programs which reflects a 68.9% increase in new student enrollments in the past four years.
- Faculty:** 1,240 faculty members joined our schools in the past four years, reflecting a 56% increase in nursing faculty for pre-licensure nursing programs.
- Programs:** Currently 131 total RN programs in California – 23 additional (public and private) programs opened in past 4 years
- Attrition:** Current rate is 16.1%. Improvement of 4.5% since 2004-5
Current attrition rate maintained for past 3 years, even with major expansions
- Retention:** Current rate is 74.2%. Improved by 2.7% in past 4 years
- Simulation:** 76% of the nursing programs use high fidelity simulation due to regional grants from the Governor's Nurse Education Initiative and public-private partnership expansions.

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“This is a direct illustration of the success and importance of the public-private partnerships established when I launched the California Nurse Education Initiative in 2005,” said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. “Health care jobs are a critical part of a healthy economy – and we need to continue this fantastic momentum by further helping ensure the California workforce is prepared to fill the healthcare job demands of the future.”

California continues to face 9,900 RNs job openings annually, with the number accumulating to 116,600 by 2020 according to Employment Development Department (EDD) statistics, due to the aging, growing population in need of health care services in California. California’s population is projected to grow from approximately 38.2 million people in 2008 to 43.1 million in 2018.

The California Labor and Workforce Development Agency and the EDD workforce projections include the need to educate over 206,000 additional healthcare professionals by 2014. In March, 2009, EDD reported that the health care workforce sector has the highest job growth rate, with a year-over job increase of 23,400 jobs in California.

For more information on the Governor’s Nurse Education Initiative, go to www.labor.ca.gov. For a link to the 2008 California Nurse Education Initiative Annual Report go to: http://www.labor.ca.gov/pdf/NEI_3rd_Annual_Report_2008.pdf.

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