

**New Program Proposal
Center for Nursing Leadership
University of South Carolina-Columbia**

Summary

USC-Columbia requests approval to operate a Center for Nursing Leadership in order to establish eligibility of the Center to receive state funds. The Center will be the only one of its kind in the state of South Carolina or the Southeastern region, according to the proposal.

The Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina approved the Center on January 15, 2004, at their regular meeting. The proposal was submitted for Commission review on May 17, 2004. The proposal was reviewed and approved by members of the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs at its meeting on July 15, 2004.

During the conversation of the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs it was noted that while approval of the Center by the Commission on Higher Education will establish the Center's eligibility to receive state funds, there is no current plan to pursue state funding during the Center's first five years of implementation. The five-year budget estimates which accompany the proposal show no requests for state funds in any of the first five years of the Center's existence. The representatives from the University who were present stated that the Center has no interest at this time in requesting state funds during the first five years of its approval period. The proposal states that "*a fundamental objective of the Center is to be self-supporting through endowment revenue, participants' fees, gifts and donations, contracts and grants. Revenue from the successful programs in place . . . will provide startup funds for new initiatives until funding is secured*" (p.3).

The purpose of the Center is to create educational opportunities for current and emerging leaders in the field of professional nursing. The Center has provided a structure to build the leadership capacity of nurses by serving as a forum for local, regional, and national nurse leaders, public policymakers, and other health care professionals to shape the future of nursing through models of healthcare delivery and the design and implementation of health policy. Workshops, events, and conferences will be the principal vehicles for carrying out the Center's purpose as a forum for nursing leadership.

The need for the Center is based upon the absence of any similar entity in the state or the region for addressing the need for coordinated leadership activities, programs, and initiatives. The number of persons anticipated to be served by the Center on an annual basis will vary depending upon the program mix established in any given year.

Within the institution, the Center collaborates with the Daniel Management Center of the Moore School of Business. While other agencies and institutions in South Carolina provide a wide variety of career development stratagems for nurses, such as short courses and lectures, no other center specifically and uniquely addresses nursing *leadership* issues. The Center does and will collaborate with the nursing programs at MUSC, Clemson, and other in-state teaching institutions. It also is developing an ongoing collaboration with the Leadership Institute at Columbia College and the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) in joint programming initiatives. Representatives from these institutions/agencies and other health care agencies and public and private organizations will serve on an interdisciplinary advisory board for the Center, which is now being formed.

The Center will have no credit-bearing curriculum. Instead, the Center will offer a series of noncredit and continuing education workshops, events, and conferences. No specific level of student enrollment has been projected, since enrollments will vary by year, depending upon the programs offered by the Center.

No new faculty members will be necessary to initiate or implement this program.

However, portions of two faculty members' professional time (.3 FTE) will be ascribed to the Center. Also, one administrator (.3 FTE) will be committed to the Center professionally, along with one support staff person (.2 FTE). The program will not be required to seek either accreditation or licensure from any state, regional, or professional body, but the institution will perform an external review of the program in the third year of the Center's implementation.

There are no equipment or physical plant needs for the proposed program which are not already in place for the existing Center. New costs for the program are estimated to begin at \$34,000 in the first year and rise to \$40,700 in the fifth year. A total expenditure of \$192,000 is estimated for the Center's first five years of operation, including program administration (\$55,000), faculty (\$96,100), supplies and materials (\$16,000), facilities (\$19,900), and the external review (\$5,000).

In summary, while the Center operates as a USC Board-approved entity currently, it has not yet been approved by the Commission on Higher Education. The University is seeking Commission approval at this time so that the Center can in the future seek state funds.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve USC-Columbia's proposed proposal approving the Center for Nursing Leadership for implementation immediately upon Commission approval on October 7, 2004.