

# News Release

## For Immediate Release

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## **The Foundation for Nursing Excellence Receives Grant to Further Efforts to Increase the Number of BSN-Prepared Nurses in North Carolina**

**Raleigh, N.C.** - The Foundation for Nursing Excellence (FNE) has received a \$100,000 grant from The Duke Endowment to continue their support of the Western North Carolina Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (WNC RIBN) project over the next two years. Through a partnership with Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College (AB Tech) and Western Carolina University (WCU), this project will increase the number of nurses with baccalaureate degrees.

With over two-thirds of our registered nurses completing associate degree nursing programs and only 15% of these graduates achieving a BSN or higher degree over the course of their careers, the nursing faculty pipeline is diminished as well as the pool of BSN and higher degree prepared nurses available for advanced clinical practice, management roles and public health services. Implementation of a successful program that dually enrolls students in a seamless ADN and baccalaureate educational tract will provide one option to meet this goal.

In 2008, the Foundation for Nursing Excellence (FNE) in collaboration with WCU and AB Tech began work toward the implementation of a four-year, dual admission, seamless progression educational tract with support from a Partners Investing in Nursing's Future (PIN) grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Northwest Health Foundation and the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence. Support has also come from the UNC General Administration and The Duke Endowment. The first cohort of students will enter this new RIBN educational tract Fall Semester 2010, be home-based at the community college for the first 3 years of the program and complete their final year at the university. The successful implementation of this shared educational tract between AB Tech and WCU will serve as a model for future implementation in other associate and baccalaureate nursing programs across North Carolina.

"The Foundation for Nursing Excellence has made important strides to increase the number of BSN-prepared nurses in North Carolina," said Mary Piepenbring, Vice President of The Duke Endowment. "Implementing this collaborative educational model supports our efforts to strengthen the future nursing workforce and improve the delivery of care for the citizens of North Carolina."

### About the Foundation for Nursing Excellence

*The Foundation for Nursing Excellence exists to positively impact health outcomes for North Carolinians by addressing nursing workforce issues and improving patient safety. [www.ffne.org](http://www.ffne.org)*

### About The Duke Endowment

*The Duke Endowment, in Charlotte, N.C., seeks to fulfill the legacy of James B. Duke by enriching lives and communities in the Carolinas through higher education, health care, rural churches and children's services. Since its inception in 1924, the Endowment has awarded more than \$2.6 billion in grants.*