

**KANSAS NURSING INITIATIVE**  
**Visioneering Unified Legislative Alliance**  
**LEGISLATIVE RESUBMISSION PROPOSAL – November, 2010**

**Proposal:** *It is requested that the Visioneering Unified Legislative Alliance continue to include in its list of priorities for the 2010 legislative session...(describe in brief detail the proposal)*  
**Support for the continued funding for the Kansas Nursing Initiative to ensure the availability of qualified nurses.**

**Background of issue (i.e., relevant data, history, date of original proposal, funding history):**

Since 2006, the Visioneering Unified Legislative Alliance included in its identified a request for state funding to cover the cost of a 25% expansion in the capacity of nursing programs in existing post-secondary public educational institutions in South Central Kansas. These programs included the baccalaureate-degree registered nursing (RN) program at Wichita State University (WSU), the associated-degree RN programs at Butler Community College (BCC) and Hutchinson Community College (HCC), and the licensed practical nursing (LPN) program at Wichita Area Technical College (WATC).

In January 2006, The Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) submitted a report to the Governor and the Legislature describing the resources required to increase the capacity of the state higher education system to accommodate up to 250 more nursing students annually. In spring 2006, the Legislature responded to the report by investing \$3.4million dollars in grant funds, as part of a 10-year commitment, to begin addressing each of the four barriers to nursing education program expansion. The Legislature authorized KBOR to distribute these funds in three specific areas based on the key barriers identified in the report. During the first two years the Nursing Initiative achievements has included:

- 1) 833 Additional nursing students admitted (FY07 – 507 & FY08 – 326)
- 2) 65 Full-time and 44 part-time total additional nursing faculty hired
- 3) 66 Nurse Educator Service Scholarships awarded, and
- 4) 27 Human patient simulators placed into nursing classrooms

**Describe the regional impact or significance to South Central Kansas:  
According to the 2008 Annual Report—**

1. Nurse Educator Service Scholarships (NESS) Awarded in FY 2008: Wichita State University was award 20 scholarships totaling \$57,512.
2. Wichita State has been able to hire 2 of the 3 graduates from the NESS to work at WSU as faculty members.
3. WSU has received a total of \$612,466 funding for salaries and supplies and has been able to hire an additional 2 full time and 10 part time faculty members..
4. Butler County Community college has received \$144,752 for salaries and supplies and has been able to hire 1 full time faculty member.
5. Hutchinson Community College has received \$92,042 for salaries and supplies and has hired 2 full time faculty members.
6. Wichita State University has increased their enrollment by total 60 additional students in 2007 and 2008.
7. Hutchinson Community College has increased their enrollment by a total of 19 students in 2007 and 2008
8. Butler County Community College has increased their enrollment by a total of 32 students in 2007. No increase in 2008 to allow for student progression until graduation.

**Describe the relationship of the proposal to job growth, per capita income and/or education:**

While South Central Kansas, like the nation, suffers from a well-documented shortage in the supply of nurses in the workforce, the demand for new nurses is projected to increase dramatically. The nursing workforce plays a critical role in the economic health of South Central Kansas because of the region's economy is more dependent on the health care sector than the state or nation as a whole. Yet, nursing jobs remain unfilled because nursing programs are at capacity and are unable to graduate the number of nurses the region needs. The existing educational capacity to train nurses is grossly insufficient to meet both present and future workforce demands. To achieve greater parity between nursing workforce supply and demand, the capacity of nursing programs at existing public post-secondary educational institutions in South Central Kansas should be funded for 25% expansion. At a September 2005 conference in Topeka, nursing program directors from across the state identified four major barriers that limited increased enrollment and subsequent graduation of more registered nursing students. These barriers were: (1) an insufficient number of qualified nursing faculty, (2) competition among programs for clinical placement sites, (3) classroom and laboratory space constraints, and (4) additional equipment needs.

**Describe how this resubmission proposal is the same or different from the original proposal (i.e. is the intent the same, will the funding requested be utilized for same or new purposes, etc.)**

The Kansas Nursing Initiative is a 10 year project to address the impending shortage of nurses. We are entering the fourth year of funding for this initiative and it imperative that we continue to produce graduates to meeting our future demands.

In 2002, The American Hospital Association Commission on Workforce for Hospitals and Health Systems stated, "Among the many issues facing the field of healthcare, none is more important to its long-term future than solving the growing workforce crisis."

Hospitals and other facilities that provide patient care are threatened by a chronic shortage of nurses.

In 2004, the U.S. Department of Labor identified Registered Nursing as one of the top occupations in terms of job growth through the year 2012. According to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study, by 2010 the shortage of qualified healthcare workers is expected to reach 12 percent nationally, and by 2020 this shortage is expected to grow to 29 percent. This translates to a need for 1,101,000 additional registered nurses nationally to meet the demand by the year 2012.

The outlook in Kansas is similar to the national trend. *The Kansas Occupational Outlook*, published by the Kansas Department of Labor in 2005, identified the top ten occupations for projected growth through 2010. Registered Nurse is listed second, with a projected growth of 31.2 percent, or 6,890 more RN positions needed by 2010. Coupled with 4,460 RN replacements needed due to retirements in the same time period, the total projected need for RNs will exceed 11,350 by 2010.

**Persons/Organizations/Groups with primary responsibility for advancing proposed legislation (please provide contact information, including telephone and e-mail):**

- Kansas State Nurses Association, 1109 SW Topeka, KS, 66612, Susan Bumsted, contact person, [ksna@ksna.net](mailto:ksna@ksna.net)

**Draft of proposed legislation: (if applicable)—NA**

**NOTE: updated data from KBOR is not available at this time.**