

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE ENDOWMENT FOR HEALTH RECEIVES GRANT TO ADDRESS MINORITY NURSING
WORKFORCE ISSUES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The Endowment for Health will collaborate with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Northwest Health Foundation to diversify the nursing workforce in the Granite State

Concord, NH – The Endowment for Health announced today that it has been chosen as one of nine foundations nationwide to receive funding from *Partners Investing in Nursing's Future (PIN)*, a unique national initiative identifying innovative ways to create an appropriately-sized nursing workforce equipped with the specific skills necessary to meet the changing demands of the 21st century patient population.

The Endowment for Health has been awarded a two-year grant of \$230,000 to expand ethnic and racial diversity of the nursing workforce and nursing education faculty in New Hampshire. The *New Hampshire Nursing Diversity Pipeline Project* will focus on:

- Increasing awareness of the nursing profession among minority youth;
- Strengthening academic preparedness for nursing education;
- Increasing the number of nurses with advanced degrees from underrepresented populations; and
- Increasing the number of nursing instructors in NH.

The *PIN* grant will be matched dollar for dollar by local and regional funding partners including the Endowment for Health, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation and others.

The Endowment for Health led the development of the *New Hampshire Nursing Diversity Pipeline Project* in partnership with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the Office of Minority Health, Southern NH AHEC, B.R.I.N.G. I.T.!!!, the New Hampshire Minority Health Coalition, and numerous New Hampshire health care organizations, nursing education programs, community leaders, and nursing leaders. *PIN* funds will support:

- Summer camps and an after-school program to explore nursing careers;
- Academic and college admissions support for high school youth;
- A minority nursing network for aspiring and practicing nurses; and
- A *Future of Nursing Scholars* program for minority nurses seeking advanced degrees.

According to Kelly Laflamme, program director for the Endowment for Health, “Nearly 25 percent of Manchester’s school-aged children are from minority backgrounds.” She added, “We must prepare minority youth for successful careers in health care, especially nursing. They are the future of our state.”

Laflamme cited research that proves workforce diversity in health care helps improve the quality of care, particularly for minority patients. “As New Hampshire’s population continues to diversify, it is important to ensure the primary care workforce reflects this diversity,” she said.

Led by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Northwest Health Foundation, *Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future (PIN)* is in its fifth year of providing support to local foundations, including the Endowment for Health, and aims to discover models that work and can be replicated nationally. Dr. James Squires, president of the Endowment for Health, said, “We are honored to be among the foundations selected for this national initiative and look forward to the opportunities to learn with and from our distinguished peers in the *PIN* network.”

The 2010 grant cycle marks the final competitive cycle of this \$12 million investment by *PIN*, which has funded partnerships of up to \$250,000 each. During the program’s first four years, 88 foundation partners in 32 states established more than 300 local partnerships among nursing organizations, private and public funders and workforce development boards to address the nursing and nurse faculty shortage. The new partners will bring the total number of private philanthropic organizations contributing to the solutions to nearly 100, and expands the number of states represented to 37.

“We know that the overall number of nurses in the U.S. is growing, but there are many issues that need to be addressed in order to create the nursing workforce we need for the future,” said Judith Woodruff, J.D., director of workforce development at the Northwest Health Foundation and program director for *Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future*. “Investment by local philanthropy is essential for communities to come together to deal with challenges unique to their region or state.”

For more information about *Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future*, visit www.partnersinnursing.org.

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The **Endowment for Health** was established in 1999. Since 2001, the Endowment has awarded more than 730 grants totaling more than \$31 million to support a wide range of health-related programs and projects in New Hampshire. For more information about proposal guidelines and funding priorities for the 2010 program year, visit www.endowmentforhealth.org

The **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation’s largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful, and timely change. For more than 35 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. Helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in our lifetime. www.rwjf.org.

Founded in 1997, **Northwest Health Foundation** is a nonprofit foundation that seeks to advance, support, and promote the health of the people of Oregon and southwest Washington. We achieve our mission through a variety of means, including grantmaking, technical assistance and training, convening, commissioning research, and supporting policy advocacy. See www.nwhf.org.