

Donation to SUU from IHC will help graduate more nurses

Dr. Steven Bennion, President of Southern Utah University, gratefully accepted a donation of \$125,000 from Intermountain Health Care (IHC) to help train more registered nurses.

Nationally there is a shortage of nurses, and the trend is expected to continue. Some estimates project that by 2020 the U.S. will have a 20 percent shortage in the number of nurses needed. While Utah has not yet experienced the shortage to the degree other places in the country have, more nurses are needed to care for the sick and elderly.

“One of the major challenges in Utah,” says **Nancy Nowak**, RN, IHC’s chief nursing officer, “is that many qualified applicants for nursing school are turned down because the programs don’t have the capacity for more students. These donations will help address that problem by allowing more teaching staff to be added to the programs.” Nowak concludes, “Rather than wait until the nursing shortage becomes a crisis in Utah, we’ve taken steps to be proactive.”



Kimberly Ashworth (Chief Nursing Officer at WVMC), Anna Eyjen (student), Steve Smoot (Hospital Administrator), Steven D. Bennion (SUU President), Jeremy Wood (student), and Donna Lister (SUU Nursing Department Chair).

The donation is one of the means by which IHC is fulfilling part of its mission of community service to provide more graduates to work in Utah’s hospitals and clinics.

Donna Lister, chair of SUU’s Department of Nursing, states, “The money awarded by IHC to Southern Utah University’s Nursing Program will assist us in hiring an additional faculty member to meet the existing need for nursing educators at SUU.”

SUU has increased the number of admitted students from 24 per year, when it was a cooperative program with Weber State, to 30 per semester or 60 per year as an independent SUU program. Lister reports that the department has already received more than 110 applications for admission for the Fall 2005 semester alone. “We are very pleased,” Lister says, “that IHC is partnering with us to increase the number and quality of nursing graduates in Southern Utah.”

Super PROFESSORS

The faculty of Southern Utah University received A’s and B’s from their students on criteria including quality teaching, organization and clarity, and value of course content.

Freshmen through graduate students submitted 11,360 evaluations of their professors and classes for the Spring 2005 semester, and the results show that SUU faculty are above average and excellent teachers.

Ten questions queried students on everything from how clearly course objectives were defined, to how useful the course was in helping the student acquire new knowledge and skills.



Nursing student Weston Swindlehurst