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Florida Center for Nursing Receives Funding to Support State Efforts to Transform Health Care through Nursing

The Florida Center for Nursing announces that the Florida Action Coalition, co-led by the Florida Center for Nursing and the Florida Blue Foundation (previously known as the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Foundation), has been selected to serve as a grantee for a new The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) initiative to help states prepare the nurse leaders to address our nation's most pressing health care challenges—access, quality, and cost.

“Our projections continue to demonstrate a critical shortage in the supply of nurses in Florida,” said Florida Center for Nursing Executive Director Mary Lou Brunell, RN. “If we are going to make real progress, nurse leaders need to be involved in the conversation at an institutional and policy level. This grant will help us identify opportunities to make that happen.” The Florida Center for Nursing is the only entity in the state or nationally to collect and report out on supply and demand for Florida's nursing workforce.

The *Future of Nursing State Implementation Program*, a \$3 million effort aimed at bolstering those three critical challenges “amidst an aging and more diverse population,” will strengthen efforts already underway to transform health care through nursing and meet the challenges stemming from an aging and more diverse population. The Florida Action Coalition will work to implement programs that prepare nurses to lead system change, strengthen nursing education, expand access to care by maximizing the use of nurses, recruit and train a more diverse nursing workforce, and improve quality and coordination of health care delivery. The Florida Blue Foundation is providing the required matching funds in support of the grant.

“This grant is designed to spur progress in Florida, which already is doing impressive work to transform nursing education, practice, and leadership,” said Susan B. Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, RWJF senior adviser for nursing and director of the Future of Nursing: *Campaign for Action*. “The Foundation is committed to helping states build a more highly educated, diverse nursing workforce that will improve health outcomes for patients, families, and communities.”

The Florida Action Coalition was established in 2011 in response to the Institute of Medicine's landmark study and report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. The Florida Action Coalition is the driving force to implement the IOM recommendations in Florida.

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The Florida Center for Nursing is the definitive source for information, research, and strategies addressing the dynamic nurse workforce needs in Florida. A full list of reports for both regional and statewide nursing workforce data can be found at: flcenterfornursing.org