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News Release

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Grant Offers New e-Tutoring Services for Goodwin College Nursing Students *Successful academic program leading to strong performance on RN exam*

Since holding the first classes for its RN Nursing program in 2004, Goodwin College has continuously enhanced the program to ensure that its graduates are prepared to handle the challenges of working as a health care professional. Even though only six years have passed since the program's start, health care has already advanced greatly as new technologies are incorporated into standard care. In turn, the licensing exam that nursing program graduates must pass to become registered nurses has also evolved to reflect the new knowledge that nurses must possess. With all of these developments, Goodwin College implemented face-to-face individual and small-group tutoring in 2008 specifically for its nursing students to help them retain a full understanding of the foundational principles in nursing to increase their success in higher-level coursework and on the licensing exam.

Recognizing the positive impact of this service, Goodwin College sought other opportunities to provide support for students throughout their time in the RN Nursing program. This past month, Goodwin College received a \$25,000 grant from an anonymous foundation to expand and enhance the existing tutoring services to create a synchronous online tutoring program for students in five core nursing courses. The grant provides funding for new e-tutors to offer tutoring to nursing students in any subject area for 10 hours a week including during weekends.

Chair of Goodwin College's RN Nursing Program Jan Costello notes the important link between the tutoring services and students' achievement, "The tutoring services combined with our exceptional teaching staff, the simulation lab, and strong connections with area hospitals for clinical experiences have given our students the tools they need to flourish as health care professionals. All of these components have strengthened the

performance of our students, garnering positive attention from potential employers and giving our students the confidence and knowledge to provide the best care possible for their patients.”

Graduates of Goodwin College’s RN Nursing program have performed strongly on the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX) in recent years, demonstrating the success of these tutoring efforts and the positive effects of the expert instruction they received through comprehensive coursework. The number of Goodwin College students passing the exam each cohort is well above the required 80 percent average; in fact, the current pass rate is 96.8 percent for the most recent class of graduates taking the exam, to date. These strong pass rates are important not only for the graduates seeking employment but also for health care institutions facing nursing shortages, a problem that is expected to increase in the next decade as the economy recovers. In a July 2010 report, the Tri-Council for Nursing states the critical need to provide quality training to produce even more nurses, “We know that the Baby Boomers are entering their retirement years and their demand for care is escalating, the nursing workforce is aging rapidly, and healthcare reform will soon provide subsidies for 32 million citizens to more fully utilize the healthcare system.” The report also notes that the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that Registered Nursing will be the profession with the greatest growth through 2018. As one of the largest RN programs in the state, Goodwin College’s RN program has graduated more than 500 nurses. Through continued improvements including the tutoring services, Goodwin College is taking the necessary steps to produce the maximum number of registered nurses that the program can support, increasing retention and promoting students’ success after they finish the program.

By providing a solid basis in nursing skills, the tutoring services will also help those RN students who choose to continue at Goodwin College or another institution to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and encourage RN graduates who may have otherwise been unsure of their academic aptitude to also pursue additional education. Assessment of future health care needs show that, in addition to more positions for registered nurses, there will be greater opportunities for nurses with bachelor’s degrees to fill health care roles. Therefore, encouraging students to continue their education is essential to address anticipated workforce shortages in all areas of nursing care.

Overall, Goodwin College’s new e-tutoring component along with other academic and career supports offered to all students at the College will help increase the number of nursing students who feel they have the level of expertise and comfort with the nursing material to advance their studies and their careers in health care. To learn more about Goodwin College’s RN Nursing program and its RN to BSN Completion program, visit www.goodwin.edu/majors.asp.

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