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The WorkSource Coordinates Collaboration for RN Clinical Training

HOUSTON- In its ongoing effort to find new resources to meet the critical need for more registered nurses in the Gulf Coast region, The WorkSource has raised a multi-agency healthcare collaboration to new heights. It has been instrumental in securing a major competitive grant along with matching funds and in-kind services to provide the clinical portion of an RN's formal education in a new and innovative manner.

The program is known as WINNER, short for Workforce Increases in Nurses and Nursing facility: Excellence in Resource collaboration. It will provide two years of precepted clinical training for nursing students from 10 area schools. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has awarded a three-year \$1.5 million grant to the collaboration. The John S. Dunn Research Foundation has committed to a match of up to \$250,000, and the Good Samaritan Foundation has committed to a match of \$30,000. Hospitals participating in the educational program will donate \$288,000 through loaned clinical teaching staff and clinic sites.

The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston will lead the project team that includes Lee College, Houston Community College, San Jacinto Community College, Alvin Community College, College of the Mainland, North Harris Montgomery

Community College, Prairie View A&M University, UTMB School of Nursing, and Texas Woman's University.

Hospitals providing preceptors for the project include San Jacinto Methodist Hospital, Harris County Hospital District, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas Children's Hospital, The Methodist Hospital, Memorial Hermann Hospital, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital and UTMB John Sealy Hospital. Additional hospitals will be recruited during the initial planning phase.

The WorkSource-Gulf Coast Workforce Board and The Greater Houston Partnership will serve as advisors for the collaboration. Nurse clinical training is scheduled to begin in Fall 2005.

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