



COLLEGE RELATIONS

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**FOR RELEASE August 3, 2004**

**Darton College Combats Nursing Shortage Through  
ICAPP® Health Professionals Initiative**

ALBANY, Ga. — (August 3, 2004) – Darton College has graduated 88 nursing students through the fast-track nursing program funded by the University System of Georgia’s Health Professionals Initiative. An additional 20 fast-track nursing students are on schedule to graduate in December 2004.

The program is administered through the Board of Regents’ Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP)®. It matches private sector healthcare providers with public colleges and universities to produce fast-track graduates in nursing, medical technology and pharmacy. The Health Professionals Initiative uses ICAPP’s® proven model that meets the “just-in-time-needs” of the state’s business community.

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## **ICAPP Grant**

Statewide, the ICAPP® Health Professionals Initiative resulted in 632 new licensed healthcare professionals being produced – far exceeding the original goal of 500 new graduates. The successful endeavor represented a \$6.75 million public/private partnership between Georgia healthcare providers and the University System. Thirteen University System institutions, including Darton College, worked with medical providers in 19 Georgia communities.

The initiative funding has paid the cost of instruction, with Darton’s hospital partners – Miller County Hospital in Colquitt, Palmyra Medical Centers and Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Crisp Regional Hospital in Cordele, and Archbold Medical Center in Thomasville – guaranteeing jobs for graduates of the program,

Program participants have been eligible for work cancelable loans of up to \$7,500 through the Georgia Student Finance Commission. Hospital partners have also supported the nursing students through various service cancelable scholarships. Graduates who completed the program and successfully passed the licensing exam are employed by the hospital that provided the scholarship. Graduates will not have to repay any of the service cancelable loan or scholarship to the hospital or the GSFC if they work for the hospital for at least three years after graduating and becoming a registered nurse.

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**ICAPP Grant**

Students enrolled in the ICAPP® Health Professionals Initiative completed the associate degree nursing program in four semesters instead of the traditional five, by combining the first two semesters into one. This program was designed for individuals who had already completed degrees in non-nursing majors.

Graduates from Darton's nursing program consistently have among the highest pass rates in the state on the state licensing exam. Since opening its doors, Darton has graduated more than 2,300 nurses; most of them continue to live and work in South Georgia.

This and other news releases detailing the ICAPP® Health Professionals Initiative may be found on the ICAPP website at: [www.icapp.org/employees/hpi.phtml](http://www.icapp.org/employees/hpi.phtml)

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