

EAST GEORGIA COLLEGE
University System of Georgia
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**EGC & MGC COLLABORATION WITH PHASE TWO OF SUCCESSFUL
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO EASE STATE SHORTAGE OF
HEALTHCARE WORKERS**

Georgia's effort to meet a growing shortage of healthcare workers received a "booster shot" recently with the announcement of a \$2.05 million, state-funded second phase to the University System of Georgia's Health Professionals Initiative. It is projected that the new funding will add more than 700 nurses and other specialists to Georgia hospitals to the more that 600 already enrolled in the two-year-old program.

East Georgia College and Middle Georgia College have formed corporate partnerships with Emanuel Medical Center and the Medical Center of Central Georgia to offer an Associate Degree in Nursing. The program will create 60 new nursing positions. Twenty students have already graduated as Registered Nurses from this partnership during Phase One of the Initiative.

"Nationally there is an alarming downward trend in the numbers of nurses, this initiative is a positive step statewide and locally to reverse this trend," commented Dr. Tim Goodman, vice president for academic affairs and student services at East Georgia College.

"We support this partnership and program 100 percent as a means of resolving the nursing shortage, said Mr. Bob Via, Administrator, Emanuel Medical Center. "We also offer nursing scholarships and flexible scheduling for our employees while attending the nursing program."

The program is administered through the Board of Regent's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program®, or ICAPP®. Named the ICAPP® Health Professionals Initiative, it matches private sector healthcare providers with University System colleges and universities to create programs that are producing fast-track graduates in the fields of 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.

Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue praises the success of the state-funded ICAPP HPI program. "It is important that we continue to invest in the recruitment and education of Georgia health-care professionals," Perdue stated. "I applaud all of the public and private partners who have combined their resources and joined forces to tackle what is truly a national problem. The ICAPP® Health Professionals Initiative once again puts Georgia in a leadership role for finding innovative solutions to the needs of business and industry in our state."

The earlier Phase One of the Initiative was a \$6.75 million public/private partnership between Georgia healthcare providers and the University System. Thirteen University System institutions worked with medical providers in 19 Georgia communities. Many of the colleges and universities and private sector employers involved in Phase One will continue similar programs in Phase Two. East Georgia College will participate in the Phase Two segment of the program.

Phase One of the Initiative resulted in 632 additional new licensed healthcare professionals graduating from University System special fast-track programs – well in excess of the original goal of 500 new graduates. Phase Two will use the same structure as Phase One, and will leverage the \$2.05 million state commitment with \$1.75 million in cash and in-kind support from 26 private employer partners. Twelve University System institutions comprise the partners in Phase Two and will graduate an additional 721 healthcare professionals over the two-year effort. The private sector partners guarantee program graduates jobs.

“The ICAPP® Health Professionals Initiative is proof positive of what can be achieved when we mobilize strong public-private partnerships to tackle a problem,” said University System Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith. “We responded efficiently and quickly and the result will mean better healthcare for Georgians.”

This and other new releases detailing the ICAPP® Health Professionals Initiative may be found on the ICAPP website at: www.icapp.org/employees/hpi.phtml.