



# Floyd College

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**Release Date: August 3, 2004**

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## **FLOYD COLLEGE, KSU PROGRAM TO DELIVER NURSING GRADUATES**

In an effort to meet the increasing demands for health-care workers, the University System of Georgia announced today that the second phase of the Regents' Intellectual Capital Partnership Program® (ICAPP®) Health Professionals Initiative has received \$2.05 million in state funding. As a result of this funding, Floyd College's partnership with Kennesaw State University is projected to create 25 new nursing jobs in Floyd County beginning in 2005, along with an additional 30 new nursing jobs generated by Floyd College graduates alone.

The ICAPP® Health Professionals Initiative matches private-sector health-care providers with public colleges and universities to produce fast-track graduates in nursing, medical technology, and pharmacy.

Kennesaw State University (KSU) partnered with Floyd College beginning in early 2003 to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing on Floyd's Heritage Hall campus in Rome. The KSU program at Floyd has been working with three leading northwest Georgia hospitals, including Floyd Medical Center, Redmond Regional Medical Center, and Cartersville Medical Center, to provide nursing graduates. The centers serve residents in more than ten counties in the region.

"The ICAPP® Health Care Initiative has allowed the Floyd College nursing program to admit 30 additional well-qualified applicants to the nursing program. This is very beneficial at this time of extreme shortage of nurses in our state and nationwide," says Dr. Barbara Rees, chair of Health Sciences at Floyd College.

"Our hospital partners, Redmond Regional Medical Center, Floyd Medical Center and Cartersville Medical Center have partnered with us for this ICAPP grant and have agreed to employ the nursing students upon graduation, as well as provide financial support for the nursing program, allowing employment of additional nursing faculty," she adds.

Since the partnership's inception, seventeen nursing students have been educated in the KSU program at Floyd College and an additional 18 students are expected to graduate in December of this year.

The added funding for the ICAPP® Health Professionals Initiative Phase Two is anticipated to add more than 700 nurses and other specialists statewide to the state's health-care industry, joining the 600-plus already graduated from or currently enrolled in the two-year-old program.

Phase One of the ICAPP® Health Professionals Initiative resulted in 632 additional new licensed healthcare professionals being produced through customized University System "fast-track programs" – far exceeding the original goal of 500 new graduates.

Phase Two will use the same structure as Phase One, leveraging the \$2.05 million state commitment with \$1.75 million in cash and in-kind support from 26 private employer partners charged with guaranteeing the program graduates jobs. Floyd College is among twelve University System institutions that will be the partners in Phase Two. An additional 721 healthcare professionals will graduate from the partner institutions over the two-year effort.

"I believe this initiative just goes to show what the University System can do in partnership with a specific industry such as healthcare," states Dr. Randy Pierce, president of Floyd College. "This initiative has created a pattern from which other successful workforce initiatives can be cut."

The Georgia Hospital Association, the Georgia Student Finance Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Health also have joined with the USG and participating employers in support of the Health Professionals Initiative.

Floyd College is an associate-degree granting unit of the University System of Georgia serving 3,300 students on its campuses in Rome, Cartersville and Acworth.

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