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NEWS RELEASE

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New funding maintains Georgia State's accelerated nursing program

ATLANTA – Georgia State University's Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing will receive \$259,678 in state funds to continue and expand its accelerated bachelor's degree program in nursing, which aims to increase the flow of new graduates into a field that has suffered personnel shortages in Georgia for years.

The grant is part of a \$2.05 million year one, second phase of state funding to the University System of Georgia to ease the state's shortage of health care workers. The grant is administered through the state Board of Regents' Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP®). The ICAPP® Health Professionals Initiative matches hospitals and other health care providers with Georgia's public colleges and universities to create programs designed to produce fast-track nursing, medical technology and pharmacy graduates.

Funded by ICAPP®, Georgia State University's partnership with Grady Hospital and Promina Health System two years ago has already produced more than two dozen graduates, each of whom graduated in December and are employed in Georgia. The accelerated nursing program at Georgia State was Georgia's first expedited baccalaureate nursing degree backed by the Georgia Board of Nursing.

This year's ICAPP® award pairs Georgia State with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Grady Hospital and Tenet Healthcare Corp. Each participating health care system will provide matching financial support for the nursing program and has agreed to hire 10 of its fast-track graduates. The Lewis School of Nursing has accepted 48 additional accelerated students since 2002 and will accept another 56 during the 2004-05

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year. ICAPP® funding will help provide two full-time faculty members and additional part-time clinical instructors to handle the increase in admissions.

“This additional ICAPP® funding, combined with the support from our health care system partners, will allow the School of Nursing to change to twice-a-year admissions, allowing us to better serve our expanding student population,” said Alice Demi, director of the Lewis School of Nursing.

The 16-month accelerated program graduates nurses in four consecutive semesters, following completion of all pre-professional core course work. A strong college-level science background is required for admission and many of the program’s students already hold undergraduate or graduate degrees in other areas.

For more information on the ICAPP® Health Professionals Initiative, visit www.icapp.org/employees/hpi.phtml.

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