



Press Release: Health Centers to Address RN Shortage, 9/17/09

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News Brief - 9/17/09

Health Centers and Western Governors University Partner to Address RN Shortage

National Association of Community Health Centers to Support Clinical Training for WGU's New Nursing Prelicensure Program

Salt Lake City, Utah — The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and Western Governors University, www.wgu.edu, will partner to provide clinical training opportunities as part of WGU's new competency-based bachelor's degree program leading to initial RN licensure.

Community Health Centers across the U.S. provide primary care services to 20 million people in America. Like hospitals and other healthcare providers, these centers must address the growing shortage of registered nurses.

To develop its new prelicensure degree program, WGU has collaborated with national and state workforce agencies, healthcare foundations, and major hospitals and healthcare providers.

"WGU is committed to improving patient care by making quality nursing education accessible and affordable," said Jan Jones-Schenk, Director of the National Prelicensure Program.

"NACHC is proud to be a partner in this effort with WGU, which could not come at a more critical time," said Tom Curtin, Chief Medical Officer at NACHC.

WGU's College of Health Professions offers a unique academic approach specifically designed for working nurses. Rather than attending traditional classes and earning credit hours, students are required to demonstrate their knowledge and competency by writing papers, completing assignments, and taking exams.

About the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)

Founded in 1971, the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance and expand access to quality, community-responsive health care for America's medically underserved and uninsured.