

## NEWS RELEASE

### News Contact:

Cathy Summa-Wolfe, College of Marin, 415-485-9528, cathy.summawolfe@marin.cc.ca.us

### **COLLEGE OF MARIN EXPANDING NURSING PROGRAM** *Program Adding Students, Equipment and New Curriculum*

**KENTFIELD, Calif., March 27, 2006**—Responding to the statewide nursing shortage, the College of Marin is expanding its registered nursing program. The expansion will be funded by a \$312,000 grant awarded to the college by the California Community College Chancellor's office.

The COM will implement a new curriculum, admit 10 additional students starting fall semester 2006, and add state-of-the-art equipment and a part-time coordinator for clinical simulation in its skills lab.

“College of Marin is known for its outstanding registered nursing program, which has produced many of Marin's nurses,” says the school's director of health sciences Rosalind Hartman, RN, MS. “The State of California has recognized the value we add by approving our program and curriculum and funding our expansion.”

COM focused its new nursing curriculum to achieve seven student learning outcomes: caring, critical thinking, performing therapeutic nursing interventions, teaching learning, communication, managing client care and the ethical and legal scope of nursing practice. The new curriculum was approved earlier this month by the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN), which sets educational standards for nursing programs in the state.

Additionally, the BRN recently approved College of Marin's program without any recommendations for improvement. Similar to conferring accreditation, the BRN has the authority to approve registered nursing programs in California.

The new equipment will help nurses' clinical skills. The equipment includes two manikin patient simulators that replicate human responses. The manikins mimic various disease processes or clinical scenarios by exhibiting different heart and lung sounds, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, heart rate, pulse, bowel sounds, and pupillary response. The simulations help prepare students for many low frequency but high risk events, such as strokes, heart attacks or lung failures.

“This is cutting-edge equipment that not every school can offer,” says Hartman. “Students will use the new equipment to experience every aspect of patient care and gain a leg up in their ability to succeed.”

**About College of Marin**

College of Marin has been providing exceptional educational opportunities for students of all ages since 1926. Each semester, nearly 8,000 students are enrolled in over 1,100 credit classes. An additional 6,000 students take advantage of the College's many outstanding community education and community services classes. The College administration is located in Kentfield, CA. The College also operates the Indian Valley campus in Novato, CA. **The College of Marin is fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges**