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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OCTOBER 6, 2005

**GROSSMONT COLLEGE LEADS REGIONAL NURSING EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE MORE NURSES IN SAN DIEGO AND IMPERIAL**

El Cajon - San Diego and Imperial County health care facilities can expect an infusion of more than 200 new nurses in the next few years thanks to a program now underway in local community colleges. With the assistance of new \$2.051 million funding from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Nurse Education Initiative, Grossmont College is aligning with San Diego City College, Southwestern College, Imperial Valley College and a host of local healthcare facilities and other agencies to address the chronic shortage of registered nurses.

The three-year funding awarded to Grossmont as the lead agency through the Center for Nursing Expansion/Innovation is to provide additional enrollment opportunities for students who may have been unable to enroll in impacted nursing programs, and to assist them to be successful. The program will also address faculty recruitment and retention, and will provide assistance for those who have failed the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) to be successful. The state funds are matched with commitments of partner hospitals and the colleges themselves.

According to Grossmont College President, Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., "This is yet another wonderful opportunity to facilitate a program that widens the nursing pipeline.

Grossmont College is proud to be home to the Regional Health Occupations Resource Center and affiliated programs because we understand the acute need in our communities. This partnership is a perfect example of leveraging community college nursing education resources to the greatest extent possible.”

Eighty of the ‘new’ nurses-in-training will be added to the student nurse enrollments at the four community colleges beginning with the spring semester, 2006, in programs that either help current licensed vocational nurses move up to registered nurses, or through the ‘regular’ RN programs beginning with the fall semester, 2006. These nursing students will be assisted with clinical training at local healthcare sites, including Sharp Grossmont Hospital; Children’s Hospital San Diego; Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District; Kaiser Permanente; and El Centro Regional Medical Center.

An additional 150 graduate nurses who have not been successful with Board examinations will receive training and other services to enable them to better prepare for upcoming examinations and licensing.

A unique feature of the three-year project is the involvement of other community resources as partners in the effort. They include the East County Career Center, the Grossmont Adult School and the Imperial Valley One-Stop Center, where participants will be screened for eligibility and receive follow-up services. Additionally, 120 new Nurse Preceptors will be training to assist future cohorts of nurses-in-training.

For additional information, contact Dr. Mary Callahan, Ed.D., R.N., Interim Associate Dean for Health Professions at Grossmont College, 619-644-7815.

