



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Barbara Bishop  
BBPR, Inc.  
(310) 656-4668

**VENTURA COUNTY NURSING LEGACY PROJECT**

**TO HOLD SYMPOSIUM ON STRENGTHENING AND SUSTAINING THE NURSING WORKFORCE:**

**THE PRACTICE ENVIRONMENT**

**Camarillo, Calif. – (March 19, 2008)** The Ventura Nursing Legacy Project, a joint effort of the Ventura County Community Foundation and California State University Channel Islands, will hold a community Nursing Symposium focusing on the environment of the nursing practice and issues that affect it such as retaining nurses throughout the career continuum, developing emerging clinical leaders; and designing a model practice environment.

Symposium speakers will present national, state and local perspectives on topics such as:

- Workforce Development
- Magnet Hospital Certification
- RN Career Transition Programs
- Clinical Leadership and Preceptor Development

The symposium will inform practitioners, educators, administrators, funders and policymakers about the best practices for improving the nursing practice environment crucial to retention. Guest speakers include:

- Hugh J. Ralston, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ventura County Community Foundation
- Laurie Bigham, Chief Nursing Officer, St. John's Regional Medical Center
- Rick Martin, Senior Vice President, Clinical Operations & Chief Nursing Officer, Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian - **Keynote Address**
- Kathleen Kessler, Coordinator of Professional Education and Professional Partnerships, Michigan State University

- Nola Maloy, Senior Programs Officer, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation
- Peggy Diller, Interim Chief Nursing Officer, Kaiser Permanente, Santa Clara Medical Center
- Charles Krozek, President and Managing Director, Versant
- Dr. Barbara Thorpe, Professor of Nursing, California State University Channel Islands, Moderator

**The symposium is free to the public and will be held on Friday, April 4, 2008 from 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the Conference Center at St. John’s Regional Medical Center, 1600 North Rose Avenue, in Oxnard. Lunch will be served. For more information, or to reserve your space, please e-mail [annette.puyolt@csuci.edu](mailto:annette.puyolt@csuci.edu).**

3.0 continuing education contact hours will be awarded by CSU Channel Islands (CABRN provider #13953) for \$75.00. Onsite registration and payment for CEUs are available by check or cash only.

The Ventura Nursing Legacy Project was formed as part of a national initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation through its Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future program to develop and test solutions to America’s nursing shortage and is a partnership between VCCF and California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI.) VCCF was the only project funded in California, and was only one of ten in the entire nation, for the first phase of the project. The project’s goal is to determine priority issues around nursing in Ventura County and to develop a common set of sustainable long-term strategies to address recruitment, health policy and diversity in the nursing profession, with emphasis on developing funding strategies for the Ventura County region. For information about the Ventura Nursing Legacy Project, visit <http://www.csuci.edu/orsp/VNLP.htm>.

The Ventura County Community Foundation is a family of charitable funds whose combined assets now exceed \$110 million, with 2007 grants and pledges of \$4.1 million. The Foundation’s mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community and to build long-term capital to benefit Ventura County. The Foundation has been confirmed in compliance with national standards by the Council on Foundations, a reflection of the highest peer review across the nation’s 700 community foundations. For more information, visit [www.vccf.org](http://www.vccf.org)

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