

News Release

South Seattle Community College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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South Seattle Community College Nursing Program to Receive \$772,000 Grant

South Seattle Community College's Nursing program will receive a \$772,000 grant to expand facilities and the number of students trained.

The money is part of a \$2.8 million federal job-training grant, the fourth highest in United States, awarded to the Seattle Community Colleges. The grant is from the U.S. Department of Labor to train workers for the region's health care industry.

The funds, spread over the next three years, will help South add a new laboratory dedicated to the LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) portion of its Nursing program and two new faculty. The new facilities and faculty will allow the college to double the number of LPN graduates, bringing the total to 60 per year.

The funds will also help the college start on the path to creating a RN (Registered Nurse) program. The Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission has agreed to accept the college's letter of intent to start the new program. The program will be the third rung in the career ladder of the college's Nursing program, where students currently start as CNAs (Certified Nursing Assistants) and move on to LPN. The steps allow for students to build on previously learned skills and advance their careers.

The Seattle grant is the fourth-largest made to a total of 70 community colleges from across the country as part of the national Community-Based Job Training Grants program. The grant program was established to build community college capacity to equip workers in high-growth industries where demand for qualified workers exceeds supply.

"These grant funds will help South Seattle Community College build upon an already successful program and will benefit multiple communities," said college president Dr. Jill Wakefield. "Our Nursing program has already been recognized as a national model for transitioning English as a Second Language students into career training programs that offer a better and brighter future. An expanded program can mean only more educational and career opportunities for students in the communities we serve, as well as meeting the high demand for health care professionals."

South's VESL (Vocational English as Second Language) model does not require students to wait to develop their English skills before they start occupational training. Students, who develop language skills concurrently with occupational skills, are able to gain knowledge of both more quickly and deeply.

South Seattle Community College is one of the Seattle Community Colleges, the largest two-year college system in the state.

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