FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Nov. 30, 2010

CALIFORNIA NURSING LEADERS BUILD PLAN TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE

Statewide effort joins national campaign to advance health through nursing

(SACRAMENTO, Calif.)— More than 100 key health and community leaders met today at UC Davis Health System to advance recommendations to transform the nursing profession—and the health-care system—to improve the quality of care and advance health throughout California. Their work is part of a national initiative launched in the wake of a landmark report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

Donna Shalala, the chair of the IOM committee that compiled the report, “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health,” said the initiative will “usher in the golden age of nursing, where nurses take their rightful leadership place in American health care.”

The California Regional Awareness Meeting at UC Davis Health System also included at least another 200 participants from a dozen other sites around California that joined the event via webcast. The California meeting coincided with a major summit in Washington, D.C., and the start of the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action.

Jan Boller, a nursing professor at Western University of Health Sciences, College of Graduate Nursing in Pomona, Calif., said she was glad to be part of the discussions and plans.

“Nurses are the leaders who are going to make health reform happen,” Boller said.

The California Regional Action Coalition is one of five coalitions nationwide working to implement recommendations of the report. The report, a collaborative effort of the IOM and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, calls for enhancing nursing’s leadership role in health-care redesign, increasing the capacity of nurses to address growing societal need, and raising the education level of the nursing workforce. It also outlines several recommendations that address a range of system changes, including innovative ways to improve health-care quality and address the health-care workforce shortage that continues to threaten the availability and quality of care in the United States.

At each event, the goal was to discuss how to solve the educational, training and practice issues that prevent nurses from serving as full partners in the delivery of quality health care.

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“The time is now,” said Carol Robinson, chief patient care services officer for UC Davis Health System and director of nursing at UC Davis Medical Center. “As we look at increasing work load, we must look at removing barriers.”

The group collected input about opportunities and priorities specific to California with an eye toward improving care across the state. The California committee will lead statewide efforts to advance the IOM committee’s recommendations.

“For years, the nursing profession has debated the future of nursing and its role in healthcare,” said Judith Yates, vice president and chief operating officer of the Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial County, who participated via webcast. “Not since the ’60s have so many stars been aligned for making progress: historic healthcare reform, increasing community needs for access to care, hospital focus on improving the care environment, and the release of the IOM report with a roadmap for nursing to play a leadership role as change agents.”

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently launched a new website at thefutureofnursing.org that includes details and recommendations from the IOM report; ideas, action steps and resources for organizations to become involved; and toolkits and template materials for leaders to advance the recommendations in their communities. More information from today’s California regional meeting as well as more news of the California coalition can be found at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing website at nursing.ucdavis.edu.

About the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis

For 100 years, UC Davis has engaged in teaching, research and public service that matters to California and to transform the world. The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis was established in March 2009, UC Davis’ first major initiative to address society’s most pressing health-care problems in its second century of service. The school was launched through a $100 million commitment from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the nation’s largest grant for nursing education. The vision of the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing is to transform health care through nursing education and research. Through nursing leadership, the school will discover knowledge to advance health, improve quality of care and health outcomes, and inform health policy. The school’s first programs, a doctoral and a master’s degree program, opened in fall 2010. Additional students and programs will be phased in over the next decade. The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing is part of the UC Davis Health System, an integrated, academic health system encompassing UC Davis School of Medicine, the 613-bed-acute-care hospital and clinical services of UC Davis Medical Center and the 800-member physician group known as the UC Davis Medical Group. For more information, visit nursing.ucdavis.edu.

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