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Group's focus on research wins honor

Nurse chapter started collaborative

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

Northern Kentucky University's Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society has won an International Research Advancement Award for establishing the Northern Kentucky Nursing Research Collaborative.

"To be recognized by peers of such high distinction and accomplishment is a tremendous honor for our chapter and for the NKU School of Nursing and Health Professions," said Judi Frerick, an assistant professor of nursing at NKU. "Among all the global entries for this award, Rho Theta (NKU's chapter) was the only one of 451 chapters selected to receive this recognition for the next biennium."

The collaborative is designed to advance nursing research by linking hospitals and medical practices with local universities and schools.

ADVERTISEMENT "The collaborative introduces the principles of nursing research to novice researchers and students, while providing advanced research opportunities for more experienced nurses," Frerick said.

"Community nurses and nursing students jointly participate in research workshops, seminars and professional meetings."

The collaborative also allows participants to have access to NKU's statistical, graphic art and poster printing service at no or reduced charges.

The collaborative was funded in July 2006 by a two-year \$46,000 University-Community Partnership Grant from the Scripps Center for Public Engagement.

The grant also allowed the collaborative to purchase video steaming equipment and a 10-hour per week student assistant. The collaborative puts each of its classes online, edited by the assistant, to be viewed by its members.

The collaborative will benefit NKU's students as well as the community.

"This partnership provides valuable opportunities for students to network with community health-care agencies, and personally experience the value these organizations place on nurses who engage in evidence-based practice - nursing practice based on research outcomes that result in improved health care," Frerick said.

"The collaborative prepares nursing graduates to function as researchers and provides expanded employment opportunities and greater career mobility after graduation."

NKU's chapter has 500 members.

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