

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Benlon at 3:35 p.m. on January 24, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Carol Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Paul West, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Stuart Little, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Avis Swartzman, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Dee Woodson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Karen Miller, RN, PhD, FAAN, Dean, Schools of Nursing & Allied Health, KU Medical Center  
Helen Connors, RN, PhD, Associate Dean, School of Nursing, KU Medical Center  
Jo Ellen Greischar-Billiard, RN, MS, Clinical Instructor, KU Medical Center

Others attending:

See attached sheet.

The Chair called upon Dr. Karen Miller to begin the informational briefing from the Kansas University Medical Center Schools of Allied Health and Nursing. Dr. Miller shared with the Committee the success in technology-based higher education in nursing and allied health at the University of Kansas. She demonstrated The Kansas Model for Technology-based Higher Education, and told about its impact on the education of registered nurses. She said that through their distance education program in nursing, The Kansas Model, they have been working with the three other Regents' institutions with graduate nursing programs to expand access to higher education across Kansas. Dr. Miller revealed that they have received national recognition for The Kansas Model through special focus in TIME magazine and an in-depth interview from CNN

Dr. Miller said that The Kansas Model was developed in response to a critical shortage of health care providers in certain counties of Kansas in the early 1990's. She told the Committee members that the University of Kansas Medical Center School of Nursing set an academic course to increase the number of Advanced Practice Nurses working in rural and under-served urban areas. She added that these nurse practitioners are able to diagnose and treat minor acute illnesses and emergencies, as well as manage disease prevention and wellness programs for various age groups. Dr. Miller said many of them work alongside physicians in office practices. She also told the Committee that they may practice at some distance from other medical professionals, using protocols and guidelines that greatly extend the geographic reaches of our medical system. She stated that nurse practitioners are effective in caring for under-served populations and improving referral patterns among physicians and other health providers so that more patients can receive the care they need.

Dr. Miller shared with the Committee that since 1993, more than 470 family nurse practitioners have graduated from the collaborative program involving Wichita State, Fort Hays State and Pittsburg State Universities, in addition to the University of Kansas. She said that nearly 80% of these nurses are practicing in Kansas today, and most are in medically under-served areas of the state. She told the members of the Committee that investment from the Kansas State Legislature helped to create this innovative program that uses interactive television and internet-based educational methods, and explained how it was funded through Federal and Foundation grants along with the funding from the State of Kansas during FY 1994 and FY 1995.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Dr. Miller testified that it has been estimated there will be a long-term shortage of certain types of health care providers throughout the next 10 years, including nurses, physicians, clinical laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, and physical therapists, among others. She also stated that this decline in the healthcare workforce will come at a time when many Americans are reaching retirement age and needing increased health care services. She concluded by saying the University of Kansas is using educational technology to reduce the impact of these shortages in our state. (Attachment 1)

Dr. Helen Connors, Associate Dean of the School of Nursing at KU Medical Center, explained about the outreach program they have with Garden City and Dodge City. She also showed in their presentation the increased enrollment starting with 26 in 1994 and going through 1999 with 251 enrollees. She said they have two on-line degree programs which started in 1998.

Jo Ellen Greischar-Billiard, Clinical Instructor for the School of Nursing at KU Medical Center, continued the presentation with a demonstration by using a laptop computer how the internet classes are done, and explained to the Committee the interaction and communication between students and instructor. She stated that flexibility is the biggest benefit of an on-line class, and it involves active learning and being self-directed and self-paced. She said the assignments are totally on-line. Ms. Greischar-Billiard explained about the Discussion Board that is maintained on-line for the students, and includes great features such as privacy, notification of 'newly' posted messages, ability to e-mail the group, ease of editing messages, and private student folders. She said that all students participate in the weekly Discussion Board, and on-line courses, less verbal students contribute equally. (Attachment 2)

Following general discussion and questions, Chairperson Benlon asked for any bill introductions and there were none.

Chairperson Benlon adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee will be Monday, January 29 Room 231-N at the Capitol.