



NEWS RELEASE  
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CONTACT: [Linda Tieman](mailto:Linda.Tieman@wcn.org), 206/787-1200x107  
[Maddie Maloney](mailto:Maddie.Maloney@wcn.org), 206/787-1200x103

## **Washington State One of Just Nine States Selected for Grant to Build a More Highly Educated Nursing Workforce**

*Focus in Washington State Will be on Increasing the Proportion of BSN Nurses to 80 Percent*

Major health care changes are transforming the way the public relies on nurses. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has awarded Washington Center for Nursing a two-year, \$300,000 grant to advance state and regional strategies aimed at creating a more highly educated, diverse nursing workforce. Washington was one of nine states chosen to lead the work. The funding is through a new RWJF program, *Academic Progression in Nursing* (APIN).

Coalitions in each state will work with academic institutions and employers on implementing sophisticated strategies to help nurses earn higher degrees in order to improve patient care and help fill faculty and advanced practice nursing roles. Washington Center for Nursing will continue to encourage strong partnerships between community colleges and universities to make it easier for nurses to transition to higher degrees.

The emphasis in Washington State has been on increasing the percentage of nurses with a BSN or higher degree to 80 percent. “This work is transformative. We’ve had the right people for years and have been making progress, but this grant will really help us make sustainable change,” said Linda Tieman, RN, MN, FACHE, executive director of the Washington Center for Nursing. Currently, 51 percent of Washington State nurses have a BSN or higher degree. “We’ve got work to do. But it’s work we enjoy doing.”

More information can be found on the Washington Center for Nursing website at <http://www.wacenterfornursing.org/news-events/>.

### ***The Washington Center for Nursing***

*The Washington Center for Nursing’s mission is to contribute to the health and wellness of people in Washington State by ensuring that there is an adequate nursing workforce to meet the current and future health care needs of our population.*

### ***About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation***

*The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation’s largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify*

*solutions and achieve comprehensive, measurable, and timely change. For 40 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime. For more information, visit [www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org). Follow the Foundation on Twitter [www.rwjf.org/twitter](http://www.rwjf.org/twitter) or Facebook [www.rwjf.org/facebook](http://www.rwjf.org/facebook).*

### **About the Tri-Council for Nursing**

*The Tri-Council for Nursing is an alliance of four autonomous nursing organizations each focused on leadership for education, practice and research. The four organizations are the: American Association of Colleges of Nursing; American Nurses Association; American Organization of Nurse Executives; and the National League for Nursing. While each organization has its own constituent membership and unique mission, they are united by common values and convene regularly for the purpose of dialogue and consensus building, to provide stewardship within the profession of nursing. These organizations represent nurses in practice, nurse executives and nursing educators. The Tri-Council's diverse interests encompass the nursing work environment, health care legislation and policy, quality of health care, nursing education, practice, research and leadership across all segments of the health delivery system.*