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College of Nursing and Health Sciences Receives White House Grant To Identify Strategies for Giving Veterans Credit for Experience Program will allow veterans to include enlisted healthcare training in degree plans

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has been awarded a grant by the White House that will allow the nursing school to work with key military leadership and training staff at the Medical Education and Training Command in San Antonio, Texas, to identify strategies to align enlisted health care training and nursing academic credit.

In early August, President Barack Obama talked about the challenge that some veterans face when trying to use the skills they learned on the battlefield here at home; particularly veterans who have been saving lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, but don’t have the credentials they need to become nurses or EMTs. The awarding of the $178,358 grant was announced on Wednesday, Sept. 21, when the administration unveiled its plan to help veterans translate the health care and medical first responder skills and experiences gained during their enlistment into nursing jobs when they return home.

“Many veterans including those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan received training as health care providers while they served in their deployments,” said Mary Wakefield, administrator of the Health Resources Administration, in a White House post. “However, veterans have found that their training in medic and certain other health care roles do not fully meet the standards of academic training for nursing programs. As a result, veterans have encountered difficulty gaining academic credit for their health care training while enlisted.”

The Medical Education and Training Command in San Antonio, Texas, is the central site for all health care-related training for the Army, Navy and Air Force. The partnership will focus -MORE-
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on opportunities to bridge the gap between enlisted training and academic coursework, improve
documentation of health care training, and work with other key training stakeholders such as
state licensure boards.

“The College of Nursing and Health Sciences was selected as the nursing program to
implement the White House’s Initiative because of its previous work with the military and
identifications of barriers to awarding credit, said Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton, dean of the College
and principal investigator of the grant.”

The $178,358 grant is an addition to the $635,187 award the College received earlier last
year for its eLine Military program to help residents of Texas veterans and members of the
military with previous medical experience to become registered nurses through distance learning
technologies. The program, which began fall 2010, currently has 42 students. In addition, the
College is working with over 100 veterans and active duty soldiers from across the United States
as well as Afghanistan, Iraq, and Germany to achieve their goals to become registered nurses.

“This is a valuable program to support our veterans and those who are on active duty,”
said Hamilton. “It will take the military medical training and experience they have received and
integrate it with nursing education programs to achieve their nursing degrees. It serves a two-fold
purpose: a meaningful profession for returning service men and women, and expanding the
health workforce to meet the needs of the growing and aging population.”

To view the complete White House posting, go to
http://jobsforveterans.military.com/126/helping-veterans-transition-nursing-careers/#ixzz1YmiXDl2a

-A&M-Corpus Christi-