

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
March 29, 2007**

**SUBJECT:** Doctor of Nursing Practice at the University of North Florida

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Consider for Approval the Doctor of Nursing Practice, the University of North Florida  
Classification of Instructional Program Code 51.1601

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Section 7(d), Article IX, Florida Constitution

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Board of Governors in March 2006 adopted a resolution to allow those universities that already have a nursing doctorate program to implement a DNP program with approval from their Board of Trustees and BOG staff confirmation that all criteria have been met. Because the University of North Florida does not have a nursing doctorate program, the DNP program proposal will need BOG approval for implementation.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a practice-focused rather than research-focused degree program. Its graduates will be experts "in specialized advanced nursing practice." (AACN, 2006). This degree program is supported by the American Academy of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the Florida Hospital Association (FHA), and the Florida Center for Nursing (FCN). Additionally, the Board of Governors *Strategic Plan 2005-2013* states that it will support universities' planned growth and new doctoral programs in critical needs or high-wage areas like Nursing.

The DNP is also being offered by the University of Florida at its Shands Jacksonville campus. However, it should be noted that the Jacksonville metropolitan area alone has a population of over one million residents and contains more than 20 hospitals. The demand for health care professionals in that area alone is high.

The university has a well-established and credentialed School of Nursing to draw upon in launching the new DNP. Initially, 11 nursing faculty will be reassigned or work overload to teach. In the second year, UNF expects to hire its first DNP educated faculty member; three more will be hired in subsequent years. If approved, the student recruitment process will begin in June 2007 for the fall term, 2007.

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**Documentation Included:** None

**Facilitators/Presenters:** Vice Chancellor LeMon  
Richard Stevens, Director, Academic and Student Affairs  
University of North Florida Representatives