

# Centralized Clinical Placement System

## Connecting Students to Training

### Background Summary

There is a serious and growing shortage of Registered Nurses (RNs) across the country and in the San Francisco Bay Area that, if unaddressed, will increasingly jeopardize the quality of health care patients receive in hospitals. Although there is strong interest in nursing as a career, nursing schools do not have the capacity to enroll most qualified applicants.

More specifically, schools are required to provide nursing students with clinical training hours at local hospitals. However, identifying clinical placements can be a time-intensive process, in part because the system is typically manual and administrators are often unaware of available clinical training opportunities. When fewer placements are identified, student enrollment caps are set to limit nursing schools from admitting more qualified students. The Betty Irene Moore Nursing Initiative (BIMNI) found that while nursing schools struggle to identify available clinical training opportunities, up to 50 percent of available hospital placements go unused.

The San Francisco Bay Area nursing community and BIMNI believe that this bottleneck can be eliminated through collaboration and the appropriate use of technology.

### Increasing Cooperation and Communication

To increase efficiency and identify more clinical training opportunities, BIMNI granted \$1.7 million in September 2004 to help the Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC) and the California Institute for Nursing & Health Care (CINHC) implement the Centralized Clinical Placement System (CCPS), an online resource that matches students with clinical placement opportunities within local hospitals. Additional funding of \$1.6 million in December 2006 was provided by BIMNI to FCCC and CINHC to enhance the system's capabilities and to implement a plan for CCPS to be self-sustaining through the support of its users. The system was designed by and for the nursing school and hospital-user community. Its development and launch required the cooperation, input and buy-in from many stakeholders, making it a model for other regions.

The CCPS makes the placement process simpler and faster for both nursing schools and hospitals, and 100 percent of nursing schools and 82 percent of hospitals in nine participating San Francisco Bay Area counties are using it.

### Looking Forward

The long-term goals of the program are to:

- Establish CCPS as a vital ongoing part of the region's healthcare infrastructure
- Expand the system statewide and beyond—with the help of the FCCC, CINHC, the California Board of Registered Nurses and others
- Leverage CCPS to continuously identify new placement opportunities, with the goal of increasing Bay Area educational capacity by at least 10% by 2008