

ATI Nursing Education Awards Grants That Provide Industry-First, Online Professional and Interpersonal Skills Education Product to Two Nursing Schools

ATI Nursing Education, the leading provider of online nurse education programs, announces the award of its ATI Nursing Education Nurse's Touch™ Product Grant to Des Moines Area Community College's practical nurse program and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke's registered nurse program.

The Nurse's Touch product line, which will launch nationwide in fall 2012, is the industry's first online education program focusing exclusively on developing professional and interpersonal skills in nurses, thus meeting a growing industry need. The product grant provides for the two nursing programs to use Nurse's Touch for one class of students for one year.

The Des Moines Area Community College and University of North Carolina at Pembroke programs were selected from more than 120 grant applications. Using stringent criteria, ATI Nursing Education selected the schools based on how Nurse's Touch will be used to enhance the educational experience and performance outcomes of nursing students.

"Given the nursing roles of advocate, communicator, teacher, caregiver, and manager, the soft skills of nursing are increasingly important to the educational process," said Margaret Cooper, RN, MSN, Nurse Educator with the Des Moines Area Community College program. "We are very excited to be able to offer our students access to the Nurse's Touch product to strengthen those skills."

"It is imperative that students understand that nursing entails more than the ability to perform pure technical skills," said Dena Evans, EdD, MPH, BSN, RN, CNE, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Learning Enhancement Center of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke program. "Unfortunately, in many schools of nursing, a focus primarily on psychomotor skills leads to graduates who are unprepared for the critical and reflective thinking required in today's dynamic health care environment. We believe that upon graduation, these students who are exposed to the Nurse's Touch content will be better prepared for a constantly evolving and demanding work environment."

Barbara Synowiez, PhD, MSN, RN, Chair and Professor of the Department of Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, agreed that the grant will provide a unique opportunity for the school to enhance the professional and interpersonal skills of its nursing graduates.

"We are pleased to be a recipient of this grant and look forward to working with ATI Nursing Education during the next year," said Dr. Synowiez.

The Nurse's Touch product line focuses on five key content areas including professional communication, wellness and self-care, becoming a professional nurse, nursing informatics and technology, and leadership and management—all areas that will help foster interpersonal skills on the job. Like all ATI Nursing Education programs, Nurse's Touch uses the latest and most effective learning tools, such as interactive simulators, tutorials, case studies, and practice and proctored assessments.

Nurse's Touch also allows educators to assess and track students' progress. In addition to student growth, this reporting information can be an accreditation documentation resource.

"We feel very strongly about offering programs which help our clients educate skilled, professional and job-ready nurses," said Sheryl Sommer, PhD, RN, CNE, Director of Nursing Education & Curriculum for ATI Nursing Education. "Consequently, we're excited to award the grant for these institutions to take advantage of Nurse's Touch and help their students develop the interpersonal and professional skills necessary to become the best nurses possible."

For more information, please visit www.atinursestouch.com.

ATI Nursing Education is the leading provider of online learning programs that are instrumental in improving faculty effectiveness and student and program outcomes in nursing schools across the country. Currently, the company works with more than 20,000 nurse educators, approximately 2,100 colleges and universities nationwide, and more than 225,000 students. ATI Nursing Education has played a role in helping more than 1 million students pass the NCLEX, the U.S. nursing licensing examination. ATI Nursing Education is part of Ascend Learning. Founded in 2010, Ascend Learning provides technology-based educational, curriculum, and assessment solutions for health care and other professional industries. For more information, visit www.ascendlearning.com/companies/atinursing.

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