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HRSA Awards \$1.39 MM Federal Grant to FIU Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences to Close the Gap in Rural Primary Care Workforce

College partners with Glades and Hendry counties on the new Advanced Nursing Education Workforce program to place nurse practitioner students in county clinics

MIAMI (October 11, 2017) – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has awarded a \$1.39 million grant to [Florida International University \(FIU\) Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences](#) to implement the Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) program. This unique, two-year nursing education initiative will prepare advanced practice nurses to provide primary care in rural and underserved areas through academic and clinical training.

Designed specifically in response to health care challenges in rural America, the ANEW program fosters an innovative academic practice partnership model for achieving better access to and delivery of health care. Select FIU graduate nursing students will receive traineeship awards through a competitive application process matching them with rural primary health care sites in Hendry and Glades counties – two of Florida's least populated and poorest communities – to receive unique clinical training.

ANEW builds upon an existing partnership with county leaders on a rural health research project that began in 2015 known as "Building Better Health for Florida Families," which was developed and led by ANEW Grant Project Director Tami Thomas, PhD, RN, FAANP, FAAN, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for the College. Dr. Thomas explained that there is a great need for access to health care for rural families and a lack of awareness in health care professionals on the rewarding opportunities beyond urban and metropolitan settings.

"The Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences has always played the long game in its vision and investment toward community access to quality care," said Dr. Thomas. "With the backing of the HRSA and our partner counties, our graduate nursing students can become true

leaders providing culturally competent and quality health care in areas that are often overlooked by today's society.”

“The College continues to lead the way in innovative health care solutions and outreach to disadvantaged communities that have never received this type of support before,” said Ora Strickland, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean of the College. “ANEW is a ‘triple win’ for advanced practice nursing. Students can expand their training, primary care providers get more support to deliver care and communities in desperate need receive access to health care. Its success should serve as a replicable model for the nation.”

The program will continue to develop faculty in innovative teaching strategies to enhance student clinical leadership skills, team building and collaborative problem-solving, culturally appropriate care, and integration of technology. Faculty will use several approaches including telehealth systems to guide ANEW grant trainees to deliver onsite care at the Glades and Hendry clinics. The grant will be funded through June 30, 2019. For more information, visit www.cnhs.fiu.edu.

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About the FIU Nicole Wertheim College Nursing & Health Sciences

Established in 1982, the School of Nursing at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami, Florida was elevated to the [College of Nursing and Health Sciences](#) when it joined with the School of Health Sciences in October 2006. It was renamed as the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences in September 2013. The College offers undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, baccalaureate completion and specialty programs in [nursing education](#); bachelor's and master's degrees in [Health Services Administration](#); entry-level master's degrees in [Athletic Training](#), [Speech-Language Pathology](#) and [Occupational Therapy](#); and a [Doctor of Physical Therapy](#). The College's Graduate Nursing program is ranked No. 56 in the U.S. News and World Report 2018 Best Graduate Schools listing.