

## Castle Announces Three Grants for Advanced Nursing Training in Delaware -- August 21, 2006

Castle announced funding totaling 121,012 for Delaware Nursing training, addressed nationwide shortage of nurses

Wilmington, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, co-sponsor of both the NEED Act and Nurse Reinvestment Act, was joined by representatives from Wilmington College, Delaware State University and Wesley College, to announce three grants totaling \$121,012 for Advanced Education in Nursing Traineeship. The Congressman made the announcement in a lab classroom with Wilmington College nursing students and administrators and professors from the three schools.

"We are here today for an important reason; to underline the importance of nurses in this country and to address the shortage of nurses facing the U.S. I have been dedicated to this cause for a few years, specifically with the passage of the Nurse Reinvestment Act, which was signed into law to help address the nationwide nursing shortage. The important thing about these grants we are announcing today is that they are another stepping stone for those looking to become nurses who might otherwise be discouraged. I commend the work that is already being done by the three college present today to produce well-trained and hard-working nurses," Castle said.

The Advanced Nurse Traineeship grant funds allow Registered Nurses to return to college for advanced degrees, the majority of who already work full-time, part-time, or per diem. Funding pays for tuition, fees, books, and equipment. To complete the nurse practitioner program students often need to reduce the hours they can work outside of school, consequently making them ineligible for tuition assistance. Therefore, through these grants, graduate nursing education programs are able to provide payment for one or two courses or books.

- The Congressman also discussed The Nurse Education, Expansion and Development Act (NEED Act), which will help nursing schools hire and retain new faculty, purchase educational equipment, enhance labs and expand infrastructure and address the nationwide shortage of nurses. Castle said the NEED Act will work to address the very issues which are preventing nursing schools from enrolling more students by authorizing capitation grants to (grants based on number of enrollees):

Hire and retain new faculty,

Purchase educational equipment,

Enhance clinical laboratories