

Castle Awards \$250,000 to Beebe Medical Center Nursing School and Celebrates 85th Anniversary -- Jan

Lewes, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle today awarded \$250,000 to Beebe Medical Center Nursing School to help in the expansion of the school. Funds for this project were included in the Fiscal Year 2006 Transportation, Treasury, HUD appropriations bill. Castle also helped celebrate the 85th anniversary of the nursing school, which was established in 1921.

The funding will help to construct a facility that includes additional classrooms with modern communications and audio-visual capabilities, laboratories, library, office space, student lounges, and storage areas. Most importantly, it will allow the school to expand enrollment by 30-50%.

"I was thrilled to be part of the process in obtaining this money and it is my hope that the funding will help this facility continue to graduate the high standard of nurses that we have seen over its first 85 years. I have doubt that they are up to the task," Castle said.

Castle also addressed the increasing problems facing nursing schools throughout the United States and discussed legislation he has co-sponsored in the U.S. House of Representatives that will work to remedy those problems, entitled the Nurse Education, Expansion and Development Act (NEED Act).

"As the baby boomer population begins to reach the age of retirement, there will be a greater burden on all aspects of the health care industry, including nursing. The Nurse Education, Expansion and Development Act, or the NEED Act as it is commonly referred to, will authorize capitation grants that award funding to nursing schools to hire and retain new faculty, purchase educational equipment, enhance clinical laboratories and repair or expand infrastructure," Castle said.