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For Immediate Release

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ASU Nursing Awarded a Federal Grant for the KySSSM Fellowship Program

CHERRY HILL, NJ (July 21, 2008) - The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently awarded a three-year grant in the amount of \$332,038 to the Arizona State University College of Nursing & Healthcare Innovation.

HRSA, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary Federal agency for improving access to healthcare services for the uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable.

The grant was awarded to the ASU nursing college for the National program “*KySS Fellowship for NPs in Underserved U.S.: Improving Child & Teen Mental Health.*” Bernadette **Melnyk, PhD, RN, CPNP, NPP, FAAN, FNAP** is the National Chair for the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners’ (NAPNAP) KySS Program, a national initiative which promotes the mental health of children and teens, and is the Principal Investigator. Dr. Michael Rice and Ann Guthery of ASU are the co-project directors. The grant funds the development and implementation of a KySS (Keep your children/yourself Safe and Secure) Fellowship Program aimed at preparing primary care pediatric and family nurse practitioners as well as physicians and allied health professionals to accurately screen for, identify, and deliver early evidence-based interventions for children and adolescents experiencing common mental health problems. The fellowship program, the first of its kind in the United States, is a collaborative effort between the Arizona State University College of Nursing & Healthcare Innovation and NAPNAP’s KySS Program.

The initiative will enhance advanced practice nurses’ (APNs) knowledge and skills to screen for, accurately identify, and implement early evidence-based interventions with culturally diverse high-risk children and teens that have common mental health problems in rural and urban settings underserved. The KySS Fellowship program will provide an internet-based fellowship program that integrates clinical practice experiences in current clinical practice settings to provide opportunities for healthcare providers to put into practice the content from the online educational modules. The KySS Fellowship program is a continuing education (CE) program consisting of 20 internet-based modules, approved for NAPNAP continuing education contact hours, designed to be completed at the participant’s own pace and will be complemented by clinical learning activities and post-tests. Upon satisfactory completion of the entire program, participants will receive a KySSSM Fellowship Certificate of completion from the Arizona State University (ASU) College of Nursing & Healthcare Innovation and the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP).

One in 4 children and adolescents (i.e., 15 million) in the United States has a mental health problem that interferes with functioning at home or at school. Only 20 to 25 percent of these children receive treatment, according to the American Psychological Association. Primary care providers, such as PNs, FNs, and physicians are in a unique position to identify and manage common behavioral and mental health problems among children and teens since approximately 75 percent of children with mental health disorders are seen in primary care settings.

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The National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) is committed to improving the health care of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. An association of nearly 7,000 health care providers throughout the United States, NAPNAP is the only advanced practice registered nursing organization in the world focused on pediatric health and has 49 Chapters in 32 states. For more information call 856/857-9700 or visit NAPNAP's Website at www.napnap.org.