

# CentraCare, colleges to share nursing grant

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St. Cloud-area colleges and CentraCare Health System will split a \$500,000 federal grant to improve local nursing programs.

The grant is more good news for health officials who worry about the shrinking nursing industry. Earlier this week, Melrose-area hospital officials announced a collaboration with colleges in Alexandria and Fergus Falls that will bring nursing courses to Melrose.

Health officials hope the grant will help alleviate a statewide shortage of nurses and nursing educators. State Department of Health officials have estimated almost 8,000 nurses will leave the profession within the next two years.

"We have made progress and we will continue to make progress on the health-care shortage," said Roxanne Wilson, a registered nurse and director of education at St. Cloud Hospital, part of the CentraCare Health Sys-

tem.

CentraCare Health Foundation received the grant earlier this month. The foundation is made up of the CentraCare Health System, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud Technical College and the College of St. Benedict.

The groups worked together to vie for the money, Wilson said.

Each organization will get a piece of the grant, said David Borgert, who handles government relations for the hospital and Cen-



**Roxanne Wilson**

Says the groups worked together to receive money

traCare Health System.

St. Cloud State, which started its four-year nursing program less than two years ago, will get about 60 percent of the money, Borgert said. St. Cloud Technical College will get about 20 percent, College of St. Benedict will get about 15 percent and CentraCare Health Foundation will get the remaining money.

Organization officials have not determined where the money will be spent, Borgert said.