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**Governor Schwarzenegger Announces Release
 of \$1.35 Million to Support Healthcare Workforce Training Programs**

Sacramento - Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today announced the award of \$1.35 million to support six family nurse practitioner (FNP) training programs, four physician assistant (PA) programs and two combined FNP/PA programs. The funds will be made available through the Song-Brown program administered by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD).

"Educating and training new medical professionals is a primary way we can continue to improve quality and access to healthcare for all Californians," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "This funding will increase opportunities for California students to pursue careers in the healthcare field and benefit patients throughout our state."

FNPs and PAs work with physicians in primary care settings and are trained to assess the health status of a patient, deliver preventative care, diagnose and treat common minor illnesses and manage stable chronic illnesses. While FNPs and PAs come from different health career backgrounds, their similar roles in the health field allow them to be educated together. Currently, more than 6,000 FNPs and PAs are serving Californians throughout the state.

"The inclusion of funding for family nurse practitioners and physician assistants in the Song-Brown program helps address the critical health care needs of Californians in rural and underserved areas," said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle. "These funds will allow additional health care workforce students to have education and training opportunities."

The following FNP/PA programs were awarded funding:

Azusa Pacific University - FNP Program	\$62,535
California State University, Long Beach - FNP Program	\$139,411
Charles R. Drew University - PA Program	\$98,523
Riverside Community College - PA Program	\$69,836
San Joaquin Valley College - PA Program	\$62,350
Sonoma State University - FNP Program	\$156,112



Stanford University - FNP/PA Program	\$196,422
U.C. Davis - FNP/PA Program	\$279,941
U.C. Irvine - FNP Program	\$44,930
U.C. Los Angeles - FNP Program	\$69,836
U.C. San Francisco - FNP Program	\$64,222
USC - PA Program	\$106,391

Since the passage of the Song-Brown Act in 1973, the program has worked to encourage graduates to practice in medically underserved areas of California. The Governor's budget provides \$20 million in additional funding to directly address California's health care workforce shortage by addressing recruitment, education and retention.

The Song-Brown program is administered through OSHPD's Healthcare Workforce and Community Development Division. Since 2000, the program has awarded more than \$6 million to FNP and PA programs. For more information, please call (916) 653-0733.