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**CALIFORNIA AWARDS MORE THAN \$3.2 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF
 HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS**

SACRAMENTO – Continuing its efforts to expand opportunities for students to train and prepare for a career in medicine, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development's (OSHPD) Song-Brown Program awarded more than \$3.2 million to support healthcare workforce training programs. Fourteen registered nurse training programs were awarded a total of \$2,793,352 and, in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health (DMH), five physician assistant training programs were awarded a total of \$499,232.

OSHPD and DMH worked together to develop a new special program for physician assistants with an emphasis on training mental health providers funded by Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The Act, which provides increased funding, personnel and other resources to support county mental health programs, now supports the Song-Brown Physician Assistant Mental Health Special Program which will recruit and prepare physician assistants for positions in the public mental health system.

"The Song-Brown Program has a rich history of addressing the critical healthcare needs of Californians in underserved areas of the state," said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle. "For almost 30 years this program has helped educate and build a well trained healthcare workforce and improve access to care. We are pleased to expand these awards to include a mental health focus."

"This is another excellent example of how partnerships with the Mental Health Services Act are benefitting Californians, and in this case, California's economy through a workforce training program," said Dr. Stephen Mayberg, DMH director.

The following physician assistant training programs received awards:

University of California, Davis	\$	100,000
Keck School of Medicine-USC	\$	100,000
Samuel Merritt University	\$	100,000
Riverside Community College	\$	99,808
San Joaquin Valley College	\$	99,424



The following registered nursing training programs received awards:

California State University, Fresno	\$	364,928
Los Angeles County College	\$	324,028
California State University, Stanislaus	\$	240,000
University of San Diego, Hahn School of Nursing	\$	240,000
California State University, East Bay	\$	240,000
Riverside Community College	\$	200,000
College of the Canyons	\$	200,000
California State University, Chico	\$	168,000
Azusa Pacific University	\$	168,000
Chabot College	\$	140,000
Fresno City College	\$	140,000
California State University, San Marcos	\$	125,000
Victor Valley Community College	\$	123,396
College of the Siskiyous	\$	120,000

Since Governor Schwarzenegger took office in 2003, the Song-Brown Program has awarded almost \$31 million to health professions education and training programs throughout California.

The Song-Brown Program was established to increase the number of family practice physicians, physician assistants, family nurse practitioners and registered nurses being trained in the State to provide needed health services to Californians. For more information on the program, visit

<http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWCDD/manpower/songbrown.htm>