



PRESS RELEASE

Community Leaders Discuss PJC's \$1.3 Million Grant

November 28, 2005

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Pensacola Junior College President Tom Delaino met with community leaders, hospital and healthcare professionals, and PJC staff Monday, Nov. 28, to initiate plans for the \$1.3 million federal grant earmarked for the college's healthcare programs.

A major goal of PJC's ASCEND project is to combat the local nursing shortage by supplying highly qualified registered nurses and other healthcare professionals to area hospitals. Plans include weekend classes, more clinical experience at area hospitals, new paramedic courses, sharing resources with the University of West Florida, and retention strategies.

ASCEND partners include Baptist Health Care, Sacred Heart Health System, Santa Rosa Medical Center, West Florida Healthcare, Northwest Florida Health Council, Florida Association of Health Planning Agencies Inc., West Florida Area Health Education Center, economic development organizations, workforce boards, UWF, Escambia and Santa Rosa county school districts.

A PJC team heads for Washington, D.C., Dec. 7 to meet with U.S. Labor Department officials to review grant record-keeping requirements.

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