



Included below is a press release highlighting Ferris State University's Julie Coon's recent appointment as representative of the Michigan Association of Colleges of Nursing. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

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Leah Nixon  
Ferris State University  
Assistant Director of News Services  
leahnixon@ferris.edu, (231) 591-5604

### **Julie Coon to Serve on Newly Established Michigan Nursing Education Council**

BIG RAPIDS – Julie Coon was appointed to represent the Michigan Association of Colleges of Nursing (MACN) on the newly convened Michigan Nursing Education Council (MNEC).

Coon is director of Ferris State University's School of Nursing. She also is the current and soon-to-be-immediate past president of MACN and was a member of the Michigan Task Force on Nursing Education during 2008-09.

The 17-member council includes a mix of nursing educators, nursing practitioners and policy makers. Established by the Office of the Chief Nurse Executive (OCNE) within the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), the group will act as an advisory board to the OCNE to ensure that recommendations developed by the MDCH Task Force on Nursing Education are implemented. Some of the recommendations include creating a system of nurse residency programs in Michigan for all newly licensed graduates, giving high priority to quality and safety in all nursing education programs and increasing the number of registered nurses educated in the state.

This leadership group will be the driving force behind the transformation of nursing education in Michigan.

“There can be no more a critical time for the effective work of the Michigan Nursing Education

Council,” said MDCH Director Janet Olszewski. “We must have a new generation of nurses prepared for practice in a time of massive demand for care of the aging baby boomers.”

The growing nursing shortage is a looming public health crisis in Michigan. There are a total of 156,161 nurses licensed in the state but there will be a shortage of 18,000 nurses by 2015. More nursing faculty, whose average age in Michigan is 55 years old, will be retiring causing a shortage of instructors. In fact, many Michigan nursing schools report more than half of their faculty are eligible to retire today.

“I am excited about the creation of this council and I’m looking forward to working with them to help increase the number of nurses in Michigan and to continue to make quality and safety a number one priority in patient care,” said Chief Nursing Executive Jeanette Klemczak. “This council will help create a path to bring more national public and private resources to our work in Michigan.”

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Julie Coon.JPG

Natasha Berryman  
Marketing and Communications Assistant  
Ferris State University  
News Services  
420 Oak St., PRK 108  
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: (231) 591-2065  
Fax: (231) 591-2985