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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AWARDS NEARLY \$390,000 TO COUNCIL FOR ADULT & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

*State matches bring total funding of over \$778,000 to expand
Nursing Career Lattice Program*

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration has awarded a \$389,256 grant to the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) to expand the Nursing Career Lattice Program, an education and training model that addresses the current national nursing and healthcare worker shortage. Under terms of the grant, individual states will match an additional \$389,256 for a total of \$778,512.

The new funding will facilitate a one year expansion of The Career Lattice Program model to four states: Kentucky, Georgia, Michigan and Virginia. CAEL, in collaboration with the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor, developed the original nursing apprenticeship model under a \$2 million grant awarded in by The Labor Department in 2003. The Career Lattice Program is focused on increasing the number of Certified Nurses Aides (CNAs), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and Registered Nurses (RNs) throughout the nation.

"Apprenticeship is an industry-driven concept, which ties on-the-job training and classroom instruction to produce well-trained workers," said Emily DeRocco, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training. "We want to be sure that, at the completion of training, workers have advancement opportunity and employers have the skilled workers they need to succeed."

States chosen as expansion sites saw the career lattice approach as a way to expand and strengthen efforts already underway to increase the supply of healthcare workers. Concurrently, the U.S. Department of Labor was eager to explore ways to further The Career Lattice Program based upon positive outcomes in the first 5 pilot sites: Chicago, Illinois; Houston, Texas; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and the states of Maryland; and Washington.

"This high-quality apprenticeship training program provides a structured career path for professional development," said Anthony Swoope, Administrator of the U.S. Labor Department's Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services (ATELS). "Apprentices who complete the program will have advanced skills with career paths, their patients will have the assurance of excellent care, and health care providers will have a guaranteed source of highly trained workers," he stated.

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Under a separate grant from the Department of Labor, CAEL developed a Toolkit that government, public sector, and healthcare entities can use to create similar nursing career lattice programs. The Toolkit will provide a structure for implementation of the model in the expansion sites.

“Our approach uses innovative models for the delivery of clinical and didactic training to make it easier for participants to earn nursing credentials while continuing to work, and to advance in their careers. The goal is to encourage careers in nursing, particularly among adults and demographic groups underrepresented in the industry,” stated Pamela Tate, CAEL President and CEO.

Participants in the Nursing Career Lattice Program are employed by partner healthcare facilities while they are training. The CAN and LPN components of the lattice are competency-based Registered Apprenticeships, certified by the U.S. Department of Labor. The LPN to RN portion uses online learning for the didactic portion of the training. The Nursing Career Lattice is designed to draw enrollees from incumbent workers at hospitals and long-term healthcare facilities, high schools, and workforce investment system One-Stop Centers.

The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) is a national non-profit leader in the fields of adult learning and workforce development, providing colleges and universities, companies, labor organizations and federal, state and local governments with the tools and strategies they need for creating practical, effective lifelong learning solutions. With a membership of over 600 colleges, universities, corporations, labor unions, associations, and individuals, CAEL is headquartered in Chicago and also maintains offices in Denver, Philadelphia, Norwalk, CT, and New York City.

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