

**USI receives \$750,000 grant
for nurse practitioner program**



**NEWS
RELEASE**

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A \$750,000 grant from the Division of Nursing, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has been awarded to the University of Southern Indiana School of Nursing and Health Professions for its master's-level Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Program.

The family nurse practitioner is educated to provide preventive health care and selected medical management of acute and chronic illness in a variety of settings, working in collaboration with a physician. Dr. Nadine A. Coudret, dean of the school, and Dr. Melissa L. Vandeveer, associate professor of nursing and program coordinator for graduate studies in nursing, said they expect to eventually graduate 15 FNPs a year, with the first group to complete their studies in August 1997.

Under the grant, the program will include an outreach effort to recruit qualified nurses in medically underserved areas (MUAs) of the Tri-State to become family nurse practitioners. Studies have shown that in the 25 counties of southern Indiana, southern Illinois, and western Kentucky that surround USI, 16 have whole-county and five partial-county MUA designation.

For information on the program, contact Dr. Vandeveer or the school at 812/465-1154.