

**Chapter Leader Research Advancement Award:
Rho Theta
Northern Kentucky Nursing Research Collaborative**

Rho Theta Establishes Research Collaborative

In 2006, Rho Theta established the Northern Kentucky area's first Nursing Research Collaborative. The purpose of the Northern Kentucky Nursing Research Collaborative (NKNRC) is to link community resources (hospitals and medical practices) and academic resources (Northern Kentucky University) for the purpose of advancing nursing research throughout the Northern Kentucky region. The programs and services offered by the Collaborative are for all NKU graduate and undergraduate nursing students, nursing faculty and for local hospital and community partners, including: St. Elizabeth Medical Center, St. Luke Hospitals, Riverhills Healthcare, Gateway Community and Technical College, and others. Through the NKNRC, all participants have access to NKU's statistical services, graphic arts services, and poster printing services at no charge or drastically reduced charges.

In order to address sustainability, Rho Theta applied for, and was awarded a 2-year, \$46,000 University Partnership Grant. This funding allows for the continuation of the NKNRC, including the provision of high tech video streaming equipment, and a Grant Assistant. This individual was selected from among our Rho Theta student body to assist with the planning and implementation of all Collaborative activities 10 hours each week. This experience will not only provide paid leadership and project management skills, it will also link the student with community healthcare leaders throughout Northern Kentucky and serve as a tremendous networking opportunity for the new nursing graduate. In addition, the grant provides the Grant Assistant with 6 credit hours of free tuition toward his/her nursing education at NKU! Sustainability is also being addressed through the utilization of hospital resources (meeting spaces, medical facility speakers, advertising funding, etc). Local hospitals have pledged more than \$33,000 in support to continue the NKNRC for the next two years.

Rho Theta Committed to Research Knowledge and Dissemination

In 2006 numerous NKNRC meetings were conducted with area healthcare leaders to plan an intensive regional nursing research project entitled 'Phases of Nursing Research'. Participants (undergraduate, graduate and community nurses) attended a five hour seminar that examined the key elements of nursing research. In the months following this initial workshop, students, faculty, and community nurses were given the opportunity to create research posters and link with NKU Graphic Arts for poster design and printing; attend presentations on evidence based practice and the clinical application of nursing research; and register nursing research posters in the "Celebration of Nursing Research Poster Presentation" at Northern Kentucky University. CEU's were granted for each educational event (see attached program information).

In February, 2007 Rho Theta and the NKNRC again sponsored a nursing research workshop. Fifty five nursing students, faculty and community nurses were in attendance and chose from numerous concurrent sessions in this day long conference (see attached program information). There was no cost to participants, as event was sponsored by Rho Theta and the NKNRC, Northern Kentucky University Community Partnership Grant, and St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

Rho Theta Recognizes Research Publicly

In 2006, twenty eight nursing faculty, students, and community nurses submitted posters in the NKNRC *Celebration of Nursing Research Poster Presentation*. Two awards were presented during this event. The first award (\$500.00) was entitled "Northern Kentucky Nursing Researcher of the Year", and was presented to two poster applicants from St. Elizabeth Medical Center. The second award was entitled "Vision Award", and went to one of NKU's undergraduate nursing students (\$250.00). Award funding was provided by St. Elizabeth and Rho Theta. The event was co-sponsored by Riverhills Healthcare.

The next Rho Theta-NKRNC Poster Presentation and Awards Ceremony will take place April 19, 2007. The event is being co-sponsored by St. Luke Hospitals. Approximately 50 poster entries are expected. Awards will be presented as outlined above.

Through the Northern Kentucky Research Collaborative, Sigma Theta Tau's strategic direction of knowledge, leadership, service and community is being enthusiastically addressed by the Rho Theta Chapter.