

Celebrating 10 Years

Portland Campus School of Nursing Building



In 1992 the time had finally come for OHSU School of Nursing to take its place on “The Hill.” The School had never had a home of its own, even though it had been separate from the School of Medicine since 1974. Stories abound of overcrowded departments spilling out into the hallways with faculty and students cramped on top of each other in borrowed space spread across five different buildings. Even as the School’s outreach programs expanded across the state, its facilities on the Hill became more cramped. The School of Nursing needed a home to flourish.

On October 30, 2002, the School celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the opening of the School of Nursing Portland building. Special guests at the celebration included former Senator Mark O. Hatfield, chairman of the Northwest Health Foundation, who helped secure federal funding for the new building, and building campaign co-chairs Jean Bates, BS ’59, and George Passadore, Wells Fargo Bank Oregon region president.

The efforts to build the new building began much earlier than 1992 with the “Filling the Need” campaign.

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Raising money for the building required a public/private partnership, not unlike the current Oregon Opportunity campaign. And so it was, a \$4.2 million private campaign, \$1.8 million in state funds and, thanks to the diligence of Senator Hatfield, a \$12 million federal appropriation. “I recall Dean Carol Lindeman and I touring the multiple locations where nursing education took place in those days on the Hill,” says Hatfield. “She emphasized the importance of bringing the School’s education, research and service to a single location. She saw the excellence that would blossom.”

The now 10-year-old School of Nursing Portland building is 90,000 square feet devoted solely to nursing education, research and achievement. However, the role of the building goes well beyond the Marquam Hill campus — the benefits have reached far beyond Portland with technology that enables students and faculty to fulfill the truly statewide mission. “Today’s demands of the health care industry combined with an unprecedented nursing shortage require us to examine how we provide nursing education,” says Kathleen Potempa, RN, DNSc, FAAN, vice president and dean of the OHSU School of Nursing.

As OHSU now turns its attention to construction of a research center and patient care facility as part of the Oregon Opportunity, Peter Kohler, MD, OHSU president,

reflects that institutions often capitalize on capital projects. “We know that effectiveness builds and strength coalesces when institutions, faculty, scientists and students are provided with facilities that can propel them into the future,” says Kohler.

Adding to the festivities at the anniversary event and further celebrating nursing, Hatfield, joined by Thomas Aschenbrener, president of the Northwest Health Foundation, announced that the foundation has pledged approximately \$1 million a year, beginning in 2003, for the next five years or longer to address the nursing shortage in Oregon. “Our region and the country are currently experiencing a multi-dimensional shortage of nurses, for which the causes are multiple and complex,” says Aschenbrener. “We feel that there is no greater health care need in Oregon right now than to begin addressing the nursing crisis. The foundation will be working with all schools of nursing and nursing organizations to ease the nursing shortage and to ensure that Oregon continues to be a leader in nursing education in the future.”

“Looking back on the School’s past success,” reflects Potempa, “has prepared us to look forward to the challenges and the growth that the future will bring. The School is embracing the opportunities that the next 10 years of educating students in this building will bring.”^{NP}