

## KU School of Nursing Receives National Award for Nurse Practitioner Program

June 6, 2002



**KANSAS CITY, Kan.** -- The University of Kansas School of Nursing's Master of Science in Nursing – Nurse Practitioner Track was recently presented with the Outstanding Faculty Practice Award by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) at the 2002 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minn.

The KU School of Nursing was selected for its work in developing KU Health Partners, Inc., a faculty practice enterprise with a direct care service division, a consulting service division and an organizational and educational development division that provides services to the community and promotes faculty practice as part of their assignment.

"This is a wonderful honor for our School of Nursing, and I am very grateful for the support of University administration, especially Dean Miller, and the faculty who are engaged in practice," stated Michael Bleich, RN, PhD, School of Nursing Associate Dean -- Clinical and Community Affairs. "These are expert clinicians who have adapted to and are willing to test new models for academic faculty practice. Although this award is directed at nursing faculty, part of the innovation recognized was our partnership with our Allied Health colleagues and was stated as such during the award presentation," Bleich continued. He also serves as executive director and chief operating officer for KU Health Partners.

"There is still much work to be done to fully develop the clinical practice model, gain recognition on provider panels and improve our capacity to measure a wide variety of outcomes from a multi-site, multi-disciplinary perspective. But, we're poised to do that and this award recognizes those efforts as being on the right track," Bleich said.

Monica Scheibmeir, RN, PhD, FNP, assistant professor, facilitated the nomination of KU Health Partners for the award. "Dr. Bleich has provided strong leadership in the past three years so that KU Health Partners was a strong contender for the award," Scheibmeir said. "I am not aware of any other business entity associated with a school of nursing that provides all of the services to advanced practice nurses that KU Health Partners does. In addition, KU Health Partners is leading the way for integrating allied health services with APN services to clients in multiple clinical settings."