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## Growing with Integrity: "Combating Nursing Shortages"

According to leading nursing work force analysts from Vanderbilt University, there could be as many as 500,000 vacant nursing positions nationwide by 2025. This severe shortage could incapacitate the health care system, leaving many patients without access to proper medical care.

Additional state funding allows Southeastern to enroll more nursing students to address the shortage. Southeastern, the fifth largest nursing producer in the United States, is working with state nursing and education leaders to recruit more students into the profession, give them a high quality education that is grounded in the realities of the workplace, graduate more nurses quickly, and help keep them on the job.

In addition, Southeastern is now participating in a state-sponsored program designed to help registered nurses holding a diploma or associate degree earn their bachelor's degree, an important step in career advancement. Through the state's Center for Adult Learning in Louisiana, Southeastern is offering the degree program through a fast track, completely online initiative.

According to Southeastern School of Nursing Director Barbara Moffett, "We're seeing a great response to our recruitment efforts. I think we're all doing our part to keep the workforce in place."

