



COLLEGE OF NURSING



The Summit Scholarship

His own brand of leadership

By 2020, South Carolina will need at least an additional 12,000 registered nurses. On a national level, this projected number increases to a profound deficit of 1.1 million nurses. From a humanitarian perspective, families and friends who need care will not receive the professional attention they deserve. The increasing numbers of elderly and seriously ill patients, the aging nursing workforce, and the lack of nurse educators are direct causes of this serious situation.

In this environment, those in the nursing profession must look for powerful ways to draw the public eye. Within the USC College of Nursing, Dr. Patrick Hickey has taken up his own brand of leadership to raise awareness of the issue. In December of 2006, he climbed over 16,000 feet to the top of Antarctica's tallest mountain, Mount Vinson. In March of this year, Dr. Hickey will journey to the top of Mount Everest, a towering 29,035 feet above ground. Everest comprises the remaining chapter of his quest to climb the seven highest mountains the world in seven years. Fewer than 100 people have completed this journey, and Dr. Hickey will become the first registered nurse to do so.

Motivated by his passion for nursing, Dr. Hickey hopes to raise awareness of the challenges facing modern healthcare. He has established a scholarship fund for nursing students, aptly named the Summit Scholarship, which he will promote as he takes on the final climb. I encourage you to support the ideals motivating his formidable quest.

Patrick is part of our family, and we are proud to support him on this rare challenge.

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Raising the bar. Dean Peggy Hewlett and Dr. Patrick Hickey before his climb to Everest. Hickey is a favorite instructor among his students at the USC College of Nursing.

