



**For Immediate Release**

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**Nursing Schools Receive Grant to Help Prepare Nursing Students for Practice**

Online simulator develops nursing “soft skills,” critical to a successful transition from student to professional nurse

**LEAWOOD, Kan., Aug. 21, 2013** – ATI Nursing Education, the leading provider of online nurse education programs, today announced the award of its ATI Nursing Education *Nurse’s Touch*™ Product Grant to two nursing programs, Massanutten Technical Center, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and The University of Texas Health Center San Antonio.

Massanutten Technical Center and The University of Texas Health Center San Antonio were selected from more than 140 grant applications. A team of ATI nurse educators reviewed each application and selected the schools based on how Nurse’s Touch would be used to enhance the educational experiences and performance outcomes of nursing students.

The *Nurse’s Touch* product line, launched nationwide in fall 2012, is the industry’s first online education program focusing exclusively on developing communication, leadership, and interpersonal skills in nurses. The importance of these skills will continue to grow as many of the “pay for performance” provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) begin to be implemented next year. Provisions of the PPACA mandate that a hospital’s financial reimbursement will be tied to patient satisfaction ratings; most of those ratings will be directly affected by a nurse’s interaction with her patients.

“We consistently hear feedback from educators and hiring professionals of the need for interpersonal skills training,” said Sheryl Sommer, director of nursing education and curriculum at ATI Nursing Education. “The stakes are high – when a hospital’s reimbursement is impacted by how well a nurse communicates with a patient about medications and discharge orders, or how well a nurse responds to a patient’s pain, then developing these so-called ‘soft skills’ will no longer be optional but an integral part of a nurse’s education.”

The *Nurse’s Touch* product line focuses on five key content areas including professional communication, wellness and self-care, becoming a professional nurse, nursing informatics and technology, and leadership and management – all areas which will help foster interpersonal skills on the job. Like all ATI Nursing Education programs, *Nurse’s Touch* uses the latest and most effective learning tools such as interactive simulators, tutorials, case studies, and practice and proctored assessments.

For more information on Nurse’s Touch, or to read the “[Soft Skills Research: Aligning Nurse’s Touch with Best Practices](#),” visit [www.atinursestouch.com](http://www.atinursestouch.com).

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### **About ATI Nursing Education**

ATI Nursing Education is the leading provider of online learning programs that are instrumental in improving faculty effectiveness and student and program outcomes in nursing schools across the country. Currently the company works with more than 20,000 nurse educators, approximately 2,100 colleges and universities nationwide, and over 225,000 students. ATI Nursing Education has played a role in helping more than 1 million students pass the NCLEX, the U.S. nursing licensing exam. ATI Nursing Education is part of Ascend Learning. Founded in 2010, Ascend Learning provides technology-based educational, curriculum and assessment solutions for healthcare and other professional industries. For more information, visit <http://www.ascendlearning.com/companies/atinursing/>.