

**For Release:** May 10, 2007  
**FINRA Contacts:** Nancy Condon  
202-728-8379  
Sarah Bohn  
202-728-8988  
**At WISER:** Martha Patzer  
202-393-3542  
Cindy Hounsell  
202-393-5452  
**At Center For  
American Nurses:** Vernell DeWitty  
301-628-5246  
800-685-4076

**WISER, Center for American Nurses Target Nurses' Financial Security  
With Help from FINRA Investor Education Foundation Grant**

**Washington, DC, May 10, 2007** — The Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER), in partnership with the Center for American Nurses, today announced a major financial education initiative aimed at strengthening the financial security of our nation's nurses. The ambitious three-year project is being funded by a \$495,250 grant from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation.

"The nursing profession is a rapidly aging workforce that is underserved in investor and financial education," says WISER President M. Cindy Hounsell. "Sixty percent of nurses aged 45 to 60 say they have done little to prepare themselves financially for retirement."

"It is clear that nurses want and need a better understanding of the financial challenges they are facing," says FINRA Foundation Chairman Mary L. Schapiro, who also serves as FINRA's Chairman and CEO. "By funding this project, we are reaching out to the nursing community with a financial education program that will arm them with the information they need to make sound financial decisions and plan for a secure retirement."

The three-year financial education project will seek to identify nurses' specific financial information needs and create education modules and tools to address them. Hounsell and her team will pilot the program's elements and train nurses to run education sessions. According to Hounsell, the program will have a long shelf life. "The educational materials and tools we create will be useful far beyond the three-year scope of our project," she says.

To reach nurses where they work—in hospitals, clinics, physician's offices, or private duty—WISER has partnered with the Center for American Nurses. Vernell P. DeWitty, the Center's Program Director and a registered nurse, sees the nursing profession at a crossroads.

"Building the nursing workforce is of critical national importance, yet inadequate attention to financial security issues puts today's nurses at risk, and may discourage younger nurses from staying in the profession," according to DeWitty. "This FINRA Foundation grant will give our nation's nurses a meaningful opportunity to gain the knowledge they need to prepare themselves and their families for life following a career of helping others."

Hounsell says, “Our goal is no less than to change nurse’s savings and investment behavior to protect their financial security. Nurses devote their professional lives to helping us. It’s only right that we find ways to help them.”

For more information, contact Cindy Hounsell of WISER at 202-393-5452, or Vernell DeWitty at the Center for American Nurses at 301-628-5246/ 800-685-4076.

The FINRA Investor Education Foundation supports innovative research and educational projects that give investors the tools they need to better understand the markets and the basic principles of saving and investing. To date, the FINRA Foundation has approved nearly \$8.3 in grants and an additional \$10.2 million in direct investor education programming. For details about grant programs and other FINRA Foundation initiatives, visit [www.finrafoundation.org](http://www.finrafoundation.org).

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#### **About WISER**

The Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement is a nonprofit organization that helps women, educators and policymakers understand the important issues surrounding women’s retirement income. WISER works to provide low and moderate income women with basic financial information aimed at helping them take financial control over their lives and to increase awareness of the structural barriers that prevent women’s adequate participation in the nation’s retirement systems.

#### **The Center for American Nurses**

Established in 2003, the Center for American Nurses is a non-profit corporation that offers tools, services and strategies to make nurses their own best advocates in their practice environments. Through research, continuing education and knowledge sharing, the Center serves nurses seeking to overcome workforce challenges and realize opportunities.