Mankato School of Nursing in Mankato, Minnesota State University, Minnesota, USA announces that Glen and Becky Taylor have pledged $7 million to support a new endowed faculty chair, a nursing institute and doctoral fellowships in nursing. These initiatives are focused on making health care more meaningful and responsive to families. Taylor is the chairman of Mankato-based Taylor Corporation and is a Minnesota State Mankato alumnus. The Taylors are committed to enhancing family health care and they recognize that nurses are more important now than ever to the well-being of families.

The Glen Taylor Family and Society Endowed Nursing Faculty Chair will be held by a nationally prominent nurse-scholar who will lead the work and promote the mission of the Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Society. The Endowed Chair will promote the institute’s goals and serve as a distinguished role model and mentor for faculty and students in a scholarly environment. A national search for the endowed chair position will begin immediately, and the new programs are expected to begin in the 2008-2009 academic year.

Led by the distinguished Endowed Chair, the Nursing Institute for Family and Society aims to

- Generate new ideas and policies about family- and society-based health care
- Improve care by creating and testing new models of caring and conducting other research to help families successfully navigate the health care delivery system
- Identify gaps in health care systems, and create delivery systems that better meet the needs of diverse families
- Develop community and academic partnerships that promote innovative family and societal nursing practices
• Lead the study and discussion of solutions to regional, national, and international health issues, including family health challenges and emerging society-specific concerns
• Establish annual symposia to engage the community of scholars in issues and challenges of providing care at the family and societal level

The Becky Taylor Doctoral Fellowships in Nursing will support Doctor of Nursing Practice students, guided by nursing faculty, in the conduct of research intended to improve family- and society-based health care. Student–faculty interactions will be focused toward knowledge development and networking relationships necessary to support lifelong influence on family and society care.

Persons interested in being considered for the position of Family and Society Endowed Nursing Faculty Chair are encouraged to contact School of Nursing Faculty Member Dr. Sandra Eggenberger, e-mail: andra.euggenberger@mnsu.edu or Dr. Sonja J. Meiers, e-mail: sonja.meiers@mnsu.edu.