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Winona State University's Center for Integrated Health Science Education and Practice has a new name.

The two-year-old center, one of four Centers of Excellence in Minnesota created by the state legislature, will now be known as HealthForce Minnesota.

The announcement was made during the center's initial annual meeting today at Minnesota State College--Southeast Technical.

WSU President, Judith Ramaley said the center will work together with the health care industry in order to respond to the needs of Minnesotans. Ramaley called it creating a cycle of innovation.

During 2007, the center awarded \$750,000 in grants to 21 separate projects that are designed to improve the quality and value of health care.

In fiscal year 2008, 19 new or continuing projects were awarded funding.

An additional \$256,000 worth of strategic investments were made in nursing pathways, research and simulation.