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FRAN ROBERTS AWARDED HEALTHCARE HERO
Grand Canyon University Vice President Recognized for Commitment to Industry

PHOENIX (August 24, 2007) – Fran Roberts is a rare breed – she’s a nurse, an educator, a speaker, a motivator, a confidante and a recognized leader in the healthcare industry – and Arizona is fortunate to have her as one of the 2007 Healthcare Heroes as recognized by *The Business Journal*.

Roberts, vice president of Grand Canyon University’s (GCU) College of Nursing and Health Sciences, was honored as a co-winner in the Healthcare Innovator category Thursday morning at a breakfast attended by approximately 800 business and community leaders. She was among 11 honorees feted in the fifth annual Healthcare Heroes awards program, which included physicians, nurses, researchers, emergency services personnel and volunteers. The other winner in the Healthcare Innovator category was Dr. Dianne Lorton with the Sun Health Research Institute.

“I am very honored and encouraged by this award,” Roberts said. “It propels me to continue my work and share ideas on addressing the health care shortages in Arizona.”

Roberts has undertaken several initiatives since joining the University. She worked collaboratively with the healthcare industry to identify ways to enhance the University’s nursing program, and within less than a year introduced a revamped nursing and health sciences curriculum. Among her achievements are cohort programs throughout the state that are putting more nursing students in the field, a highly regarded “fast track” RN to BSN (Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing) program and an innovative program that brings students from St. Kitts to Arizona to complete their clinical training and work for Arizona healthcare employers. She is currently overseeing an overhaul of GCU’s health sciences curriculum, focusing on meeting the healthcare industry’s increasing demand for allied health professionals.

“This award is well-deserved. Fran has been pushing the envelope for years, doing what she can to improve the nursing profession. We knew we had a gem when she joined us, and I’m glad that we can help further her ideals,” said GCU CEO Brent Richardson.

Prior to joining GCU, Roberts was vice president of the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association. She also served as a special consultant to the Arizona Board of Regents on increasing nursing student capacity, and has delivered speeches throughout the country about her work. Roberts resides in Central Phoenix.

About Grand Canyon University

Founded in 1949, Grand Canyon University is a one of Arizona's leading higher learning institutions and one of the nation's fastest-growing. Based in Phoenix, the regionally accredited, private, non-denominational Christian university offers online and campus-based bachelor's and master's degree programs through the Ken Blanchard College of Business, College of Education, College of Nursing and Health Sciences and College of Liberal Arts. The school was recently ranked as having the top online education program by OEDb (Online Education Database). With a total enrollment of approximately 13,000 students, GCU emphasizes individual attention for both traditional undergraduate students as well as the working professional. For more information visit www.gcu.edu.

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