

December 2018

RN to BSN

A newsletter from
THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

AT SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Contact Information

Department of Nursing
1501 State Street
ST 105
Marshall, MN 56258
(507) 537-7591
RNtoBSN@smsu.edu

Chair/Director of Nursing
Laurie Johansen, PhD, MS, RN
Professor
(507) 537-7590
Laurie.Johansen@smsu.edu

SMSU Department of Nursing Announces Continuing Collaboration with Minnesota West Community and Technical College (MN West)

The partnership between SMSU and MN West continues to grow, in order to meet the mission of both academic settings, and the people served by these institutions. A recent effort led to further enhancement of this partnership, with a memorandum of understanding. SMSU now provides an RN to BSN Early Entry Program to nursing students served by MN West. Nursing students in the MN West Professional Nursing (RN) Associate Degree Program are provided with an expanded application timeframe to the SMSU RN to BSN Program, to allow students to apply at the beginning of the MN West Professional Nursing (RN) Associate Degree Program.

The SMSU RN to BSN Early Entry Program will allow MN West students the opportunity to secure a place in the SMSU RN to BSN Program as they enter their Professional Nursing (RN) Associate Degree Program. This allows the students to focus on their studies at hand during their Professional Nursing Program, rather than spending time on admissions processes in the midst of their studies. This will also alleviate the student's worry that there will not be room for them in the SMSU RN to BSN Program by the time they graduate.

Another way that SMSU and MN West strive to meet the healthcare needs in our region.

Submitted by Laurie Johansen



SMSU Department of Nursing | Office: ST 105

Phone: (507) 537-7591 | Fax: (507) 537-6815 | RNtoBSN@smsu.edu
On the web: www.SMSU.edu/academics/departments/nursing



Dianne Johnson Presents at SMSU Undergraduate Research Conference!



The 13th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference was held on December 5, 2018 at Southwest Minnesota State University. Nurses in the RN to BSN program attended the conference. Dianne Johnson, RN, presented *College Student Sleep Habits Affect Health*, a poster at the Southwest Minnesota State University Undergraduate Research Conference on December 5, 2018.

Congratulations, Dianne!

Submitted by Nancyruth Leibold

Dianne Johnson, RN,
BSN Completion Student



Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society

The Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society is growing leaps and bounds! We are planning to submit our application to Sigma Theta Tau International in February 2019 to become a Chapter! We will find out our status later in 2019! If you are interested in joining the Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society, please contact Nancyruth Leibold at nancyruth.leibold@smsu.edu

Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society Mission and Vision

Society Mission: The mission of the Honor Society is advancing world health and celebrating nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service.

Society Vision: The Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society vision is to be the regional organization of choice for nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service.

2018-2019 Society Officers/Leaders

President	Laurie Jo Johansen
President-Elect	Melissa Sue Kidrowski
Vice President	Laura M. Schwarz
Secretary	Tami Johnson
Treasurer	Angela Chesley
Faculty Counselor	Nancyruth Leibold
Leadership Succession	Stella Nwachukwu
Webmaster	Nancyruth Leibold
Archivist	Nancyruth Leibold
Awards Chair	Denae Winter
Program Chair	Nancyruth Leibold
Membership Chair	JoAnn Williams Ruppert
Newsletter Chair	Nancyruth Leibold

Submitted by Nancyruth Leibold

Bridges between Clinical Sites and Future Nurse Educators

The SMSU RN to BSN Program collaborates with many clinical agencies who provide learning opportunities for our nursing students. Many positive outcomes surface from these clinical opportunities for our students. Our students get fabulous learning opportunities in community/public health settings. They experience first-hand the role of community/public health nurses through their nurse preceptors. Lindsay Rohlik was a nurse preceptor for SMSU nursing students in the past. Since then, she has pursued her Master Degree in Nurse Education. We'd like to share her story about how serving as a nurse preceptor led to her future as a Nurse Educator.

Role Transition – Lindsay Rohlik MS RN PHN LSN

My transition from clinical practice as a licensed school nurse, and opportunity to serve as a nurse preceptor for SMSU's RN to BSN Public/Community Health Clinical Experience, opened up the start of a surprising journey in becoming a nurse educator graduate student. I have always believed that all nurses are teachers in their own right, and through my journey as a nurse preceptor with SMSU's RN to BSN program/students, my desire to educate and teach grew into my desire to become a nurse educator. Teaching is a rich and rewarding pursuit for nurses, such as myself, looking to share clinical expertise with those entering the profession or nurses returning to practice with advanced preparation. In addition, I have built upon foundational skills via my graduate education, preparation and experience through my nurse educator practicum at SMSU this fall with Dr. Nancyruth Leibold. One of the strongest motivators to teach is being surrounded by teacher-mentors who help guide and model teaching practices. My time with Dr. Leibold has been an invaluable opportunity for me to also influence student success and shape the next generation of nurses. Working with collegial role models, such as the incredible faculty within SMSU's RN to BSN Program, has instilled professional values and skills that have ultimately influenced how I view and will transition to the academic community I will soon be entering. Teaching and learning requires a number of ingredients to engage and enthuse students and for me, learning is about active engagement and passion through this transition. While I continue to grow during my role preparation and transition to that of a novice educator, I have underestimated how hard the transition from clinical practice to that of academia can really be. What I have grown to truly recognize in such a short time during my practicum experience is the fact that my role as a clinical nurse/academic nurse educator is ever-evolving and very diverse. The SMSU nursing faculty and its program has highly inspired me to take great pride to ensure that my transition to the academic community is that of quality and integrity.



Submitted by Laurie Johansen

SMSU Nursing T-shirt – SMSU Nursing Students or Alumni who refer a nurse to the SMSU RN to BSN Program will receive a SMSU Nursing t-shirt once the student is enrolled in the nursing program!

Culturally Relevant Teaching Praxis in Nursing Education

An exciting new project in the news is a new grant received by nursing at SMSU, MSU-Mankato, and Minnesota West. The grant was funded by Minnesota State. The grant focuses on developing nurse educator skills related to culturally relevant teaching practice. Faculty development sessions are planned for online asynchronous virtual lessons, webinars, and a half-day workshop on May 20, 2019. Teaching tools related to culturally responsive teaching practice are products of the grant.

Grant leaders are Nancyruth Leibold, SMSU, Laura Schwarz, MSU-Mankato, and Dawn Gordon, Minnesota West.

Grant team members are: Laurie Jo Johansen, SMSU, Lindsay Rohlik, Minnesota West, and Kim Lehrke, Minnesota West.

Submitted by Nancyruth Leibold

2018-2019 Recipient of Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship

Following the creation of the SMSU RN to BSN Program, the Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship was created through a generous donation of Avera Marshall. The Avera Scholarship was developed to encourage nurses in the region to build upon existing knowledge and skills in order to advance their education. We are so grateful for donations to scholarships, as such scholarships assist the SMSU RN to BSN Program in meeting the healthcare needs of the region by providing a local opportunity for registered nurses to advance their education and pursue their career goals. As we all know, a strong healthcare workforce is essential to provide access to quality medical care in our rural areas. Scholarships such as this help support the region of southwest Minnesota by aiding in the building and sustaining of a skilled healthcare workforce.

We are so appreciative of the annual Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship that support one SMSU RN to BSN Program student who is a resident of the region. This fall, the SMSU Department of Nursing is proud to announce that Melanie Behrends is the 2018-19 recipient of the Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship. Following receipt of the scholarship, Melanie had the following to share: *I am truly honored to be awarded this scholarship. I can honestly say that nursing is much more than a just a profession for me but a true passion. In my eyes, seeing nursing as a "job" is getting by in the profession by showing up for your shift but having a passion for nursing is going to work and recognizing you have the opportunity to help others in a way that may touch their lives forever. I am dedicated to the nursing profession and will continue to work hard to promote the importance of health care and our role as nurses to others. By awarding me the Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship, you have not only lightened my financial burden but allowed me to focus more on the most important aspect of school; learning and advancing my career. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. Thank you for this gracious opportunity.*

Generous donations, such as the Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship, make a huge difference for the people served by SMSU. SMSU, and the Department of Nursing, is grateful for generous donations such as this to support our nursing students.

Submitted by Laurie Johansen



This year's Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship recipient – Melanie Behrends with her husband, Ross, and Tristan (9) and Caden (6)

Application to the SMSU RN to BSN Program is As Easy As 1-2-3:

- Apply to [SMSU](https://www.smsu.edu/admission/apply-online.html) at <https://www.smsu.edu/admission/apply-online.html>
- Apply to RN to BSN Program
- Complete background study

Alumni spotlight Tami Johnson!



Year of Graduation from SMSU with BSN: May 2017

Tami Johnson graduated with her BSN from SMSU in May of 2017. Tami is a previous SMSU alumnus (BA Biology, 2001).

When Tami considered returning to school for a BSN, she focused on several aspects. Tami explains she considered a small class size, reasonable tuition, and nursing program accreditation as important factors in choosing SMSU.

The combination of online study, discussion groups, field experiences, and team projects promoted Tami's personal and professional development in many areas. Tami explains the focus on evidence-based practice strengthened her ability to use research to guide nursing practice. As part of her public health preceptorship with home care and hospice, she was able to develop tools to assist with care coordination and proactive referrals within her organization.

Tami has served as a Regional Nurse Consultant with Ecumen. In her position, she supports the Directors of Nursing and clinical teams in senior living communities in Minnesota and Idaho.

In her free time, Tami enjoys gardening, traveling, and watching Minnesota's sports teams. For the last few years, her and her family's winter vacations have been scheduled in coordination with the Minnesota Wild's away games so they are able to see them play on the road.

Tami is an active member of the Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society and says she was humbled to receive the 2018 Emerging Nurse Leader award. She is currently exploring program options and planning to pursue a Master's degree in Nursing within the next year.

Thanks, Tami!

Submitted by Nancyruth Leibold

RN to BSN Applications
The SMSU RN to BSN Nursing Program continues to admit nursing students every fall and spring semester. We are still accepting applications for fall 2019 and spring 2020. Information is available at <http://www.smsu.edu/academics/programs/rntobsn/>.
New to SMSU: Associate Degree nursing students may apply in the last semester of their nursing program, with acceptance into the program contingent upon successful completion of their NCLEX-RN exam.



SMSU Department of Nursing

Science and Technology 105
1501 State St. | Marshall, MN 56258

Mark Your Calendar!

- Jan. 14 Classes Begin
- Jan. 18 Last Day to Drop w/ Refund
- Feb. 18 Presidents' Day
- Mar. 11-15 Spring Break
- Mar. 22 Fall 2019 Registration Begins
- May 3 Last Day of Classes
- May 10 Nurse Pinning Ceremony
- May 11 Commencement
- May 28 Summer 2019 Session Begins