

June 2018

RN to BSN

A newsletter from
THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

AT SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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SMSU Announces Removal of Statistics as a Course Requirement for the RN to BSN Program

The SMSU Department of Nursing is committed to a systematic assessment and evaluation framework for the SMSU RN to BSN Program. Evaluation of the curriculum is ongoing with opportunities for future revisions to meet expected student outcomes. Following a rigorous assessment and evaluation process, it has been determined that a statistics course will no longer be a co-requisite of the RN to BSN Program.

Removal of the co-requisite of statistics for the RN to BSN Program will benefit the learning opportunities for nursing students. Nursing students will still have the option to take a statistics course, if desired, but will not be required to do so. Students may choose to advance their math skills specifically through a math course, rather than a statistics course, if they need to complete credits in general mathematics courses. The flexibility of these options will allow nursing students to create an individualized course plan that meets their needs.

With this change in the curriculum, an emphasis of the RN to BSN Program is to build a strong foundation in critical thinking through an introduction to statistical literacy. The end result will be nurses who are consumers of literature, utilizing evidence based practice to make quality nursing care decisions that will improve outcomes for those people served in our communities.

Submitted by Laurie Johansen

New Course in the RN to BSN Program: Comprehensive Health Assessment

During the summer of 2018, there is something new in the RN to BSN Program at SMSU! A new course, *Comprehensive Health Assessment*, is being offered for the first time! The NURS 436: Comprehensive Health Assessment course is an online course that allows for virtual simulation practice of health assessment online. The course has an evidence-based practice component to it in which research evidence is linked to health assessment. The course is a 2-credit elective course and the instructor is Dr. Nancyruth Leibold.

Submitted by Nancyruth Leibold



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SMSU RN to BSN Spring 2018 Nurse Pinning Ceremony

The opportunity to honor the graduates of the SMSU RN to BSN Program culminates each year with a Nurse Pinning Ceremony. On May 4, 2018, the third SMSU RN to BSN Nurse Pinning Ceremony was held to celebrate the accomplishments of the nursing students who have graduated over the past year. Students receiving their nursing pins become part of history through the legacy of the tradition of the nursing pin. The nursing pin is a proud symbol of service to others, a tradition shared by nurses across the country.

SMSU is proud to have 33 more nursing students graduate over the past year. Pictures below exemplify the special ceremony held for them, and their friends and families, as they were greeted by the guest presenter, Florence Nightingale. Dr. Marg Hegge, Distinguished Professor Emeritus for Nursing at South Dakota State University, performed a portrayal of Florence Nightingale's life. Dr. Hegge has led many student tours to England in the footsteps of Florence Nightingale. She continues to be inspired by Florence Nightingale's courage, patience, and perseverance.

Submitted by Laurie Johansen



Compassion Fatigue and Rural Nursing Webinar

On February 12, 2018, Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society held the educational webinar, *Compassion Fatigue and Rural Nursing*. The presenter was Dr. Mary Bemker, PhD, PsyS, LADC, LPCC, CCFP, RN, CNE. Dr. Mary Bemker presented her work in compassion fatigue for nurses. Dr. Bemker emphasized the reasons why rural nurses are susceptible to compassion fatigue. She also discussed preventative measures to lower the risk of compassion fatigue. The webinar was well attended!

Submitted by Nancyruth Leibold



Pictured: Dr. Mary Bemker

Faculty Scholarly Activities

At SMSU, the advancement of knowledge and education calls for many kinds of scholarship, creative activities, and research. The faculty in the Department of Nursing share their experiences and passion for the profession of nursing through various forms of scholarly activities. By teaching nursing students, faculty shape the future of the profession of nursing through the discovery of new knowledge, while integrating and applying that knowledge. Dissemination of scholarly works occurs in many forms throughout the year. The following are some of the recent scholarly activities from the Department of Nursing, disseminated in the form of publishing scholarly books or articles, and through presentations or posters at conferences.

Book Chapters:

Leibold, N. & Schwarz, L. M. (2018). The Use of Social Marketing in Population Health Nursing. In M. Bemker & T. Ralyea (Eds.). *Population Health and Its Integration into Advanced Nursing Practice*. Lancaster, PA: DEStech Publications, Inc.

Schwarz, L. M. & Leibold, N. (2018). Integration of Population Health to Advanced Nursing Care. In M. Bemker & T. Ralyea (Eds.). *Population Health and Its Integration into Advanced Nursing Practice*. Lancaster, PA: DEStech Publications, Inc.

Johansen, L. (2017). Experiences of nurses living in rural communities who commute for employment. In Winters, C. A. & Lee, H. J. (Eds.). *Rural nursing: Concepts, theory, and practice*. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company.

Journal Article:

Schwarz, L. M. & Leibold, N. (2017). Recognizing incivility in nursing: Does education make a difference? *Creative Nursing*, 23(4), 232-241. doi: 10.1891/1078-4535.23

Poster Presentations:

Johansen, L. (2018). Rural Nurse's Personal and Professional Goals – Wages, Work Hours, or Job Stability? *Western Institute of Nursing 51st Annual Communicating Nursing Research Conference*. Spokane, WA.

Johansen, L. (2018). Rural Nurse's Commuting Experiences: Challenges and Benefits. *Institute of Nursing 51st Annual Communicating Nursing Research Conference*. Spokane, WA.

Submitted by Laurie Johansen

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

2018 Spring Summit: Excellence in Rural Nursing

The Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society held the 2018 Spring Summit: Excellence in Rural Nursing on March 21, 2018 at MN West, Worthington campus. Seventy-nine people attended the Summit. The Summit opened with greetings from Society President Dr. Nancyruth Leibold and MN West Dean Dr. Dawn Gordon.

Four outstanding speakers presented their work:

- Rural Nurses – Driving for Dollars? by Laurie Jo Johansen, PhD, MN, RN
- Internet Use Patterns in Adolescents and Impact on Wellbeing by Tracy Hansen, MN, BSN, RN
- Providing Culturally Congruent Care by Gwen Post, BSN, RN
- Holistic Nursing: Journey or Destination by Jane Foote, EdD, MSN, RN

All presentations were excellent!

A poster presentation session was also held:

- *Personal and Professional Goals for Rural Nurses* by Laurie Johansen, PhD, MS, RN
- *We Are Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society! 2017 to 2018* by Nancyruth Leibold, EdD, RN, MSN, PHN, CNE, AHN-BC
- *Spiritual Coloring Along the Pathway of Life* by Nancyruth Leibold, EdD, RN, MSN, PHN, CNE, AHN-BC
- *An Evidence-Based Review of School-Based Adolescent Suicide Prevention Programs* by Lindsay N. Pelz BSN, RN, PHN, LSN

Denae Winter, Chair of the Awards Committee for the Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society presented three awards and one scholarship at the Summit:

- Berniece E. Morris Scholarship Award to Lindsay Pelz
- Emerging Nurse Leader Award to Tami Johnson
- Outstanding Nursing Student Award to Monica VanOtterloo
- Excellence in Nursing Leadership Award to Nancyruth Leibold

The Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society continues to grow and develop! For information on how you can join this exciting opportunity, visit our website at <http://www.southwestmnnursinghonorsociety.com/>.

Submitted by Nancyruth Leibold



Pictured:
Dr. Laurie Johansen
Director of Nursing

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!

2018 Recipient of Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship

Several years ago, the generous donation of Avera Marshall led to the Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship. This 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.

Annually, the Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship supports one nursing student who is a resident of the region. The SMSU Department of Nursing is proud to announce that Josie Loll is the 2018 recipient of the Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship. Following receipt of the scholarship, Josie shared the following:

I am so grateful to be the recipient of this scholarship. It is an honor, truly. . . . I am a mom of two so scholarships are the only way I made it through the years. To all future students, make the leap. Be the change you want to see in nursing. Strive to make a difference. I learned so much more than I could have ever imagined from this program and it has helped my daily practice. The instructors became our friends, and helped us through any unforeseen circumstances while maintaining a busy work life. They understand because at some point, it was them. No matter what you think is stopping you, it can happen.

The SMSU Department of Nursing is grateful for generous donations to support our nursing students.

This year's Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship recipient – Ms. Josie Loll.

Submitted by Laurie Johansen



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 spring 2019 and fall 2019. 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.

Mark Your Calendar!

- Aug. 23-26 Gold Rush Days
- Aug. 24 Convocation
- Aug. 27 Fall 2018 Classes Begin
- Oct. 6 Homecoming
- Dec. 5 Undergraduate Research Conf.
- Dec. 14 Last Day of Classes
- Jan. 14 Spring 2018 Classes Began
- Mar. 11-15 Spring Break
- Mar. 22 Fall 2019 Registration Begins
- May 3 Last Day of Classes
- May 11 Commencement
- May 28 Summer 2019 Session Begins



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