

May 2017

RN to BSN

A newsletter from
THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

AT SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Inside This Issue

RN to BSN Flexible Course
Offering Pg. 1

Fall 2016 URC Poster presented
at State Capital Pg. 2

2017 Summit: Excellence in
Rural Nursing Pg. 3

Spring 2017 Virtual Mustang
Nursing Conf. Pg. 3

Avera Marshall
Scholarship Pg. 4

Alumni in the Spotlight Pg. 4

Important Dates Pg. 4

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SMSU RN to BSN Program Flexible Course Offering Schedule Finish in Three Semesters or over Multiple Years

The SMSU Department of Nursing continues to celebrate many successes since the launch of the RN to BSN Program in 2013. With our 50th nursing student graduating this Spring 2017, we have had the opportunity to continually learn about the needs of our students, allowing us to create course offerings that lead students to success.

One feature of the RN to BSN Program that many, if not all, of the nursing students appreciate is the flexibility in course offerings available for the RN to BSN Program. We understand that each student's schedule is unique, with everyone having different life situations. That's why we offer course schedules that fit varying lifestyles, so nursing students can advance their education on their own terms.

The following are some examples of the flexibility in the SMSU RN to BSN Program course schedule:

- Students may take one course at a time
- Students may take courses full time
- Students may complete the RN to BSN Program over a multiple year time-span
- Students may complete the RN to BSN Program in as little as three semesters
- Students may take courses in the summer
- Students may choose to not take courses in the summer
- Students may start at one pace (example: full time) and then decide to take courses at a slower pace

In the end, SMSU RN to BSN nursing students are able to develop their unique, individualized course plan, completing the nursing program in a time frame that may range from as little as three semesters to one that spans several years. Allowing nursing students to choose to progress through the RN to BSN Program at a pace that meets their needs has been instrumental to student success, allowing SMSU to meet the healthcare needs of our region.

Submitted by Laurie Johansen



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RN to BSN Students Present Evidence-Based Project at State Capitol

Five RN to BSN students presented their evidence-based project at the State Capitol to legislators in Saint Paul, Minnesota on March 2, 2017. Lyndsey Brown, RN, Paige Sabe, RN, Tabitha Harazin, RN, Carly Kramer, RN, and Brittany Fischer-Rossell, RN presented their poster: *Can Opioids Reduce the Need for Opioids?* The five students were selected to present their poster at the Minnesota State Capitol to the Minnesota Legislators from those who presented at the 2016 Undergraduate Research Conference this past November. Congratulations!

Submitted by Nancyruth Leibold

Students pictured (left to right): Carly Kramer, RN, Lyndsey Brown, RN, Paige Sabe, RN, Brittany Fischer-Rossell, RN, Tabitha Harazin, RN



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 2017 and spring 2018. 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 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!

2017 Summit: Excellence in Rural Nursing

The 2017 Summit: Excellence in Rural Nursing was held on March 29, 2017 on the SMSU campus in Marshall, MN. The Summit was the first conference sponsored by the Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society. Four peer reviewed nursing contact hours were awarded to participants.

Speakers and Topics Presented were:

Dawn Gordon	Successes in Rural Nursing Leadership
Robert Owusu	Is Aromatherapy Effective in Controlling Chemotherapy Induced Nausea and Vomiting?
Melissa Kidrowski	Using Essential Oils for Pain Management
Terri Anderson	Evidence-Based Practice: Communication Issues, Needs And Solutions Affecting Quality Care for Deaf Patients
Nancyruth Leibold & Laura Schwarz	Lead the Way: Nurses Need Care, too!

The Planning Committee was Nancyruth Leibold, Tracy Hansen, Tami Johnson, Robert Owusu, and Laura Schwarz.

Submitted by Nancyruth Leibold

Spring 2017 Virtual Mustang Nursing Conference

The Virtual Mustang Nursing Conference was held April 6-9, 2017. The location of the virtual conference was D2L Brightspace, the SMSU Learning Management System. The 2017 theme of the Virtual Mustang Nursing Conference was Innovations in Nursing. Twenty-two students presented their projects about leading practice change in health care organizations at the Virtual Mustang Nursing Conference in the format of electronic posters. The change projects were evidence-based and incorporated the application of change theory. Topics included implementing a New Nurse Mentorship Program, Monitoring Patients on Direct Oral Anticoagulants, Bedside Reporting, Electronic Health Records, Discharge Teaching, Rapid Response Team, Student Health, Employee Recruitment and Retention, Basin Free Bed Baths, Intravenous Tubing Change, and Preventing Cross Contamination in Homecare Settings.

Submitted by Nancyruth Leibold



Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship Recipient

The Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship was developed to encourage nurses in the region to build upon existing knowledge and skills in order to advance their education. 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. A strong healthcare workforce is essential to provide access to quality medical care in our rural areas, and scholarships such as this help support the region by aiding in the building and sustaining of a skilled healthcare workforce.

The Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship annually supports one student who is a resident of the region. The SMSU Department of Nursing is proud to announce that Darci Aslesen is the 2017 recipient of the Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship. Following receipt of the scholarship, Darci shared that she was pleased and honored to be this year's recipient. She stated that, beyond the honor, the financial assistance was truly appreciated. The SMSU Department of Nursing is grateful for generous donations to support our nursing students.

Submitted by Laurie Johansen



Pictured to left:
Darci Aslesen,
RN



Pictured below:
Melissa
Kidrowski, RN,
BSN

Alumni in the Spotlight

Our SMSU Nursing Featured Alumni in this newsletter, Melissa Kidrowski, RN, BSN is a 2016 graduate of the SMSU RN to BSN program. She is employed at Southwest Health and Human Services as a Public Health Nurse. Melissa has certifications/special qualifications as a Public Health Nurse, MnChoice Assessor, Carseat Technician, Certified Professional Authority (CPA) for WIC, Pediatric, Trauma and Pediatric Ventilator/Tracheostomy Certified, Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certified with American Heart Association, and holds an Institutional Review Board Certificate.

Melissa presented at the 2017 Summit: Excellence in Rural Nursing, Virtual Mustang Nursing Conference 2016, and Undergraduate Research Conference 2015 at SMSU. She is active in the community fundraisers and also serves as Secretary on the Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society Board of Directors, and as an ECFE Board Member. In 2017, Melissa received the Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society Emerging Nurse Leader Award!

In her personal life, Melissa likes to read, work in the garden, and play with her three children. Her hometown is Franklin, MN.

Submitted by Nancyruth Leibold

Mark Your Calendar!

- Aug. 17-20 Gold Rush Days
- Aug. 18 Convocation
- Aug. 21 Fall 2017 Classes Begin
- Sept. 30 Homecoming
- Nov. 29 Undergraduate Research Conf.
- Dec. 8 Last Day of Classes
- Jan. 8 Spring 2018 Classes Began
- Mar. 5-9 Spring Break
- Mar. 23 Fall 2018 Registration Begins
- Apr. 27 Last Day of Classes
- May 5 Commencement
- May 21 Summer 2018 Session Begins



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