

News Release: November 1, 2012

SIAST and the University of Regina launch nursing program in Swift Current

The Cypress Health Region, Great Plains College, SIAST and the University of Regina today signed a memorandum of agreement to deliver the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (SCBScN) to Great Plains College students in Swift Current.

The partners will provide support for theoretical and clinical nursing education at the Swift Current Campus, allowing students to complete the four-year program in that community.

“The opportunity for southwest nursing students to be able to access their Bachelor of Nursing degree right here in Swift Current is tremendous,” said Beth Vachon, Cypress Health Region’s Chief Executive Officer. “Rural settings provide a terrific environment for the students to receive their education and the experiences will be very positive. Past experience tells us that students tend to settle where they learn and thus the program’s presence here will allow us the chance to recruit and retain graduates of the program.”

“We are extremely happy about this program offering and the work done to date with our partners,” said Great Plains College President David Keast. “We look forward to strengthening our relationships with SIAST, University of Regina and Cypress Health Region and to ultimately producing graduates that will help meet the pressing needs of health care felt throughout the region.”

“This partnership builds on SIAST’s long-standing commitment to meeting the needs of both students and employers,” says SIAST President and CEO, Larry Rosia. “The opportunity to study nursing and take part in clinical placements close to home improves access for Swift Current area students, which in turn will ultimately benefit local health care providers.”

“Offering the SCBScN in Swift Current demonstrates that we’re a provincial university,” said University of Regina President Vianne Timmons. “We’re pleased to be part of a community committed to offering education with our partners SIAST, Great Plains College and the Cypress Health Region. The province will benefit from our highly skilled and educated nursing professionals for years to come.”

SIAST and the University of Regina signed an affiliation agreement in November 2010 to jointly offer the SCBScN, a direct-entry, baccalaureate nursing program. The first classes were offered in September 2011 with 195 seats in Regina and 150 seats in Saskatoon. Initial plans for the

expansion of the program to Swift Current allow for eight seats per year beginning in September 2013.

The Cypress Health Region provides a variety of facility-based and community-based health programs and services to over 45,000 residents in southwestern Saskatchewan. A team of over 1,700 staff and physicians provide a high quality of health care to its patients and clients, while emphasizing an overarching priority of safety and always putting the patient first.

Great Plains College offers 20 certificate, diploma and degree programs from colleges and universities across western Canada along with extensive skills and safety training options for industry. The college encourages a personal, supportive and productive learning environment and offers experience through practicum, in most programs, before graduation. Campuses are located in Swift Current, Kindersley and Warman with additional programming available in Biggar, Gravelbourg, Maple Creek, Nekaneet First Nation, Outlook and Rosetown.

SIAST is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, and has a proud and rich history as one of the primary providers of nursing education in the province. The SIAST Nursing Division's team of 254 expert faculty and staff deliver 16 innovative programs to almost 3,300 students annually. Across the province, almost 5,000 students are enrolled in a SIAST Nursing program or course.

University of Regina faculty members bring extensive expertise in delivering baccalaureate-level education. The University's growing Faculty of Nursing has many strengths including expertise in Aboriginal nursing, leadership, medical-surgical nursing, maternal-child health and other clinical areas. In addition, faculty are researchers and scholars within the discipline of nursing. Cognate courses supporting the nursing program are taught by experts in biology, English, Indigenous health studies, statistics, computer science, and other content areas.

For more information visit: www.sasknursingdegree.ca.

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