

SIAST Nursing News

A NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY THE NURSING DIVISION AT SIAST

WINTER 2007-08



Second-year NEPS students assess their "patient" in one of SIAST's new interprofessional simulation rooms.

Simulation learning centre opens at SIAST Wascana Campus

Already positioned as a leader in superior education, SIAST is again poised to further that reputation with the launch of a state-of-the-art, interprofessional simulation learning centre (SLC) for more than 800 health care students at SIAST Wascana Campus in Regina.

The first dedicated and comprehensive advanced medical simulation lab in Saskatchewan, the SLC will produce more competent, confident students – students who will be better prepared for their practicums and ultimately for the real world of their chosen profession.

The learning centre consists of three simulation rooms that resemble hospital trauma rooms, two control rooms, a debriefing room, health assessment room and fully-furnished apartment to simulate a home setting, and office and storage space.

"We have three simulators," says Yvonne Warnes, project manager. "Two emergency care simulators (ECS) bring reality to the environment with programmable features such as airway function, breath and lung sounds, eye reactions, and even verbal communication. The human patient simulator (HPS) builds on the capabilities of the ECSs with administration of anesthetic and many other advanced functions."

Ninety simulated clinical scenarios that address all areas of practice and include all age groups will assist faculty with the use of patient simulation in facilitating learning and assessment of competency.

To create an environment that precisely duplicates the clinical or home setting, the SLC includes related audio-visual and support equipment, from stretchers, medication carts and crash carts to appli-

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● PILOT PROJECT

80/20 assignment supports mentorship

By Bonnie Petrowich
& Norma Wildeman

A balance of new and experienced faculty is essential for the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) to ensure quality undergraduate nursing education. Creating this balance requires a viable strategy to help novice faculty adjust to the nurse educator role and to retain experienced faculty.

One such strategy, the 80/20 assignment pilot project, is based on research that shows mentoring can play a critical role in the enculturation and retention of new faculty.

"I believe that mentoring is powerful and

plays an important part in developing nursing faculty," says Jayne McChesney, NEPS faculty member, of her experience as a mentee. "For me, it has been about sharing knowledge and experiences, and my mentor has enriched my leadership abilities."

The 80/20 project, funded by Saskatchewan Health, makes the mentoring process possible by altering the work assignment of selected novice and experienced NEPS faculty at SIAST Wascana Campus. These faculty devote 80 per cent of their time to teaching and the remaining 20 per cent to mentor/mentee activities.

For novice faculty, mentor/mentee time is dedicated to an extended orientation, development of teaching and evaluation

skills, and socialization in the nurse educator role. A reduced teaching load also allows more time for advanced education course work.

For experienced faculty, reduction of the direct teaching workload allows time to focus on mentoring activities. Engaging experienced faculty in this way encourages them to stay with SIAST and continue to provide a valuable resource for new faculty and students.

With the coordination committee in place, facilitated by Norma Wildeman, NEPS program head at SIAST Wascana Campus, and participating faculty selected, the 80/20 assignment pilot project got underway in September and will be evaluated at the end of the current academic year.

Simulation learning centre opened at SIAST Wascana



Jodi Found, NEPS instructor, demonstrates to NEPS students how to complete a head-to-toe assessment of their "patient."

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ances and furnishings in the apartment.

The prodigious task of turning the vision of the SLC into a reality was led by a first-class team of faculty and staff from across SIAST's health sciences and nursing programs, as well as by representatives from SIAST's finance department and Virtual Campus.

"The team has contributed countless hours of creative energy and expertise in their respective areas, with the common aim of providing the best educational experience possible for SIAST health care students," says Warnes.

Overall management and leadership of the SLC is the responsibility of Cindy Smith, program head of Practical Nursing, SIAST Wascana Campus.

Susan Morhart will coordinate daily activities; Terry Boll will provide technical support to develop and run the scenarios; and two faculty members, Elaine Abrook and Jennifer Williams, will work with other faculty. There will also be simulation assistants and an administrative assistant.

● LEADING-EDGE LEARNING

Classrooms that click: Using technology to enhance student engagement

By Lucia New & Tracie Risling

Student response systems (SRS) have arrived at the SIAST Nursing Division! At the division's annual meeting in August 2007, faculty heard about a recent SRS pilot project by the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS), and they had an opportunity to try the technology. SRS technology includes handheld "clickers" that enable students in a classroom to electronically register simple responses with a receiver used by their instructor.

After experiencing the power of SRS, faculty were eager to try the technology in their own classrooms and labs. This en-

thusiasm was the catalyst for a proposal to the SIAST Technology Innovation Fund for expansion of the SRS technology division-wide.

The use of SRS in the classroom can create an environment that is both technologically innovative and learner centred. This kind of instruction is being explored as the effectiveness of traditional teaching methodologies is debated in education literature. The power of SRS in the classroom is largely based on the voice it provides to each student in the learning environment. Even those who may hesitate to raise a hand or share a comment, especially in a large classroom, can safely and privately register an opinion or answer a

question in a SRS classroom.

The impact on the learning atmosphere in the NEPS pilot project was tangible. Students were able to see the results of their responses immediately and engage in discussion in which each participant had already invested an answer. Classroom discussions not only saw increased participation, but also a noticeable improvement in focus.

SRS is one of many strategies available to promote an active learning environment. It will allow Nursing Division faculty and students to pursue innovative applications as they continue to collaborate in the creation of dynamic learning environments.

PDA's expedite learning

By Candace Skrapek

The SIAST Nursing Division received funding from the Saskatchewan government's Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) program to undertake an innovative project that puts personal data assistants (PDAs) into the hands of faculty in clinical settings. Having the ability to access large amounts of information quickly and accurately expedites patient care and student learning. Benefits include time saved for faculty and students; increased confidence in students' knowledge and abilities; and patient care based on accurate, up-to-date information. The technology supports and adds to knowledge gained in classroom and lab situations.

The project builds on previous experience with PDA technology. In the spring of 2006, SIAST Nursing Division invested in 16 PDAs for use by selected faculty and students in a limited trial to explore the effectiveness of the technology in clinical settings. The preliminary review of the project was positive. A more formal evaluation process of the TEL-funded project is underway.

E-portfolio tool used in Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program

By Joyce Bruce

Traditional paper and binder portfolios have long been used by educators to evaluate student achievement of learning objectives. The advent of the internet, however, has created an opportunity to embrace electronic portfolios.

In the spring 2007 semester, SIAST's Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (PCNP) program piloted and evaluated the efficacy of an e-portfolio tool. The project was supported by the SIAST Technology Innovation Fund as well as by SIAST's Instructional and Leadership Development Centre (ILDC), Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Virtual Campus stakeholders.

The project began by determining which key features would fit with other SIAST groups on the end product. Using streaming video webcast educational experience, a literature review and an inter-

nal discussion paper, nine key features were identified. This led to the identification of five potential e-portfolio tools, with TaskStream rating the highest.

To launch the initiative, six PCNP students used the e-portfolio tool to document their attainment of course competencies. Six SIAST faculty worked with the tool, either to support student competency development or to evaluate it for their departments. An evaluation of the experience has been completed. PCNP program students and faculty continue to use the tool.

The e-portfolio tool has the potential to enhance the learning experience in courses across SIAST. The tool enhances student engagement in the learning experience, allows for sharing of authentic examples of progress to competency achievement, and connects theory and practical learning experiences. Additionally, e-portfolios promote lifelong learning and advance academic credit for learning beyond program courses.

● ACCESSIBILITY

Practical Nursing offered in Saskatoon

By Bonnie Petrowich

Twenty-eight students began their studies this fall in the first offering of the 65-week Practical Nursing program at SIAST Kelsey 4th Avenue Centre in Saskatoon. The program will have an annual intake. Accessibility of programming is a key initiative for the Nursing Division. "Offering annual intakes of the Practical Nursing program in Saskatoon is an important way to meet that goal," says new Program Head Jean Busby.

Student reaction to the program's expansion has been positive.

"I'm so glad they started the program in Saskatoon," said first-year student Judy Janzen, who had planned to take the program in Prince Albert. "That would have meant moving to PA by myself, away from my husband and family. It would have been a culture shock. This is great! I don't have to move or leave my family," says Janzen.

"The downtown location is perfect," says classmate Ashley Kohlen.

Joining Busby are faculty members Elaine Maksymiuk, Nancy Anweiler, Sherry McDonald, Robyn Beitel, Joanna Sookocheff and Alice Salter. Rounding out the SIAST Kelsey Practical Nursing program team are Naomi Jansen, administrative assistant, and Lori Roy, nursing simulation lab coordinator.

"I'm excited about the many challenges that lie ahead and look forward to working with faculty and staff as we focus on student success in this program," says Busby.

● CROSS-BORDER NURSING EDUCATION

Program helps build bridges between Canada, Mexico, U.S.

By Reny Loewen

SIAST nursing faculty and students will soon have access to a more global perspective on nursing. The Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) at SIAST and the Nursing Education Program at Red River College in Manitoba have recently received a grant from Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) for an international student exchange project. In this project, SIAST and Red River College will partner with two university degree programs in Mexico and two associate degree nursing programs in the United States to jointly design and implement an accredited cross-cultural nursing course over the next four years.

The six partner institutions will collaboratively develop an online theory course and a clinical immersion exchange course for undergraduate nursing students. The intent of these courses is to provide an enhanced understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity and differences in health care practices across North America. Nursing educators are increasingly challenged to design curricula and offer programming to increase cultural sensitivity, knowledge and competence among health care practitioners.

Over the four years of the project, eight students from each of the six partner in-

stitutions will participate in a clinical exchange program lasting approximately four weeks.

Participants will have an opportunity to increase their awareness and recognition of unique health care beliefs and values in each of the three countries, and to examine the impact of different cultures and health care systems on the role and scope of nursing practice.

In Canada, participating nursing students will be from SIAST's Wascana and Kelsey campuses and from Red River College. SIAST students will be in their second year of a four-year degree nursing program.

The experiences in each host country will include classroom and seminar discussion, as well as clinical and observational experience. Prior to departure, students will be oriented to the country, language, culture and nursing college selected for the exchange. Language support and programming will be provided based on assessed needs.

Faculty from each institution will accompany students during the clinical practicum to provide support and ensure that course intents are met. During the clinical immersion exchange and upon return to their home countries, students and faculty will be invited to share knowledge and experiences with peers, colleagues, and other members of the health care community.

First NEPS Second Degree class graduates

June 2007 convocation at the University of Saskatchewan included 26 graduates from the initial intake of the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) Second Degree Entry Option. Implementation of the Second Degree Entry Option in 2005 was de-

signed to expand capacity of the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan. The option, a partnership between the SIAST Nursing Division and the University of Saskatchewan, College of Nursing, allows students who have already completed a degree in another field of study

to pursue full-time intensive study with program completion in less than two calendar years.

The SIAST Nursing Division congratulates the first graduates on successful completion of the program.

— Candace Skrapek

● NURSING DIVISION EXPANDS

Educating more nurses now for a healthier tomorrow

Major growth is underway within the SIAST Nursing Division. Responding to the challenge of preparing the next generation of nurses, SIAST, the primary provider of nursing education in the province, has formed new partnerships, developed new delivery methods, and added seats to many of its nursing programs.

“Program development and expansion is a top priority for us,” says Netha Dyck, dean of nursing. “Increasing the capacity of our programs, and access to them, are important steps in addressing the needs of the Saskatchewan health care system.”

Specifically, the division-wide expansion includes:

Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS)

- 18 additional seats at SIAST Kelsey

Campus in Saskatoon in September 2007

- 25 additional seats at SIAST Kelsey Campus in September 2008
- 49 additional seats planned for SIAST Wascana Campus in Regina in September 2008

NEPS Second Degree Entry Option

- 10 additional seats in May 2008
- 18 additional seats in May 2009

Practical Nursing program

- 28 seats at SIAST Kelsey Campus in September 2007
- conversion to annual intake at SIAST Wascana Campus in Regina and SIAST Woodland Campus in Prince Albert
- new online delivery in partnership with Northlands College and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation
- additional brokering through regional

colleges for a total of 136 seats throughout the province

- 10 new seats for online delivery through SIAST Wascana Campus

Basic Critical Care Nursing program

- 20 additional seats

Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program

- 8 additional seats

“The transformation within the division is necessary to keep pace with how the profession is changing,” says Dyck. “We have a 40-year history of delivering superior nursing education, a reputation we take very seriously. Our programming must be responsive, relevant and accessible if we are to ensure high-quality, safe and competent care for the people of Saskatchewan in the 21st century.”

First nursing instructor graduates from SIAST's faculty program



Carole Reece

By Bonnie Petrowich

The Faculty Certification Program (FCP) at SIAST has seen its first Nursing Division graduate: Carole Reece, faculty of the Nursing Re-entry program, SIAST Wascana Campus.

“The program was a positive experience for me,” says Reece, “One that greatly enhanced my development as a teacher.” Reece obtained her certification in August 2007.

The program, developed in partnership with the University of Regina and offered through SIAST's Instructional and Leadership Development Centre (ILDC), reflects SIAST's commitment to developing a professional community of practice. Courses in the three-year program include evaluation, instructional design,

technology in education, professional and instruction skills, and adult development and leadership. Courses are offered through a combination of online and on-site classes.

“An added bonus for me was the networking,” says Reece. “I learned how other programs handle situations with students, and I learned about some of the valuable resources available out there to help me in my job.”

Graduates receive 18 credits in the Bachelor of Adult Training and Education (BAET) program at the University of Regina, with the potential for up to an additional 30 credits for experience gained in the program.

For further information, visit: www.siastr.sk.ca/departments/ildc/index.htm

● INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Cross-functional collaboration improves patient, professional outcomes

By Joyce Bruce

Interprofessional collaborative practice is one solution proposed to address Canada's human resource shortage in health care. Interprofessional teams can improve health care (McNair, R., et al., 2001) by improving patient outcomes, health professional satisfaction and patient safety, and by increasing efficiency and innovation.

SIAST's Nursing Division and Science and Health Division have established an Interprofessional Education (IPE) team. Programs involved are the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS), CPR/First Aid, Occupational Health and Safety Practitioner, NEPS Second Degree Entry Option, Psychiatric Nursing Re-entry, Practical Nursing, Medical Diagnostics programs, Emergency Health Care programs and Primary Care Nurse Practitioner. A student rep from Recreation and Tourism is also involved.

Interprofessional collaboration is a learned behavior (Stemas, K., et al., 1999). While individual SIAST programs have initiated projects that provide opportunities to learn interprofessional team skills, the IPE team recognized that the greatest challenge is limited awareness of strategies to facilitate such teams. The team's goal is to increase faculty capacity and subsequently curriculum con-

tent and student opportunities for interprofessional teams.

As a first step, six IPE team members attended a course delivered by the Office of Interprofessional Education, University of Toronto in June 2007. The course focused on developing academic leaders in interprofessional education to teach both learners and fellow colleagues the art and science of working collaboratively for patient-centred care.

Since then, the team has successfully secured funding from SIAST's Quality Learning Organization program to have Ivy Oandasan, director, Office of Interprofessional Education, University of Toronto, help develop a professional education day for August 2008. Future activities include plans for an interactive IPE website, common IPE language and a marketing plan.

Both the Nursing and Science and Health divisions have been involved in successful interprofessional education experiences. Close to \$1.2 million in Health Canada funding through the Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient-Centred Practice is enabling Saskatchewan to develop Patient-Centred Interprofessional Team Experiences (P-CITE) between 2005-08. As a result, SIAST students and faculty have been involved in several P-CITE projects:

- 28 students from NEPS, NEPS Second

Degree Option and University of Saskatchewan Kinesiology were involved in an interprofessional clinic-based project on falls assessment and prevention, which demonstrated the need to provide more introductory information to students.

- A project focusing on quality improvement and primary health care was completed in the fall term with SIAST nursing students and University of Saskatchewan physical therapy and pharmacy students. Two presentations on this project were made at the Practice Makes Perfect Education of Health Professionals in Community, Clinical and Simulated Settings International Conference 2007 in Vancouver.
- 14 SIAST students from NEPS and medical diagnostics programs participated in a problem-based learning project on dementia care in June 2007.

References:

McNair, R., et al. (2001). *Rural interprofessional education: Promoting teamwork in primary health care education and practice*. *Australian Journal of Rural Health*. 9(Suppl.): p. S19-S26.

Stemas, K., et al. (1999). *Nursing and medical teaming for service learning in partnership*

Interprofessional mentorship project

Effective relationships and ongoing personal and professional development are the hallmarks of a strong mentorship program. Building a mentorship culture at SIAST has become a priority for the Nursing and Science and Health divisions.

Informal mentorship has long been part of the Nursing Division, but in 2004 mentors and mentees began meeting. The feedback from these meetings laid the groundwork for the Nursing Division Men-

torship Project Team, created in 2005.

Lynn Sheridan, program head of CPR/First Aid and Occupational Health & Safety, assumed the role of chair and with funding from SIAST's Quality Learning Organization (QLO) program began work on a formal program. The team expanded to include the Science and Health Division in 2005.

Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) faculty members Tracie Risling and Caroline Hoffart were hired

as mentorship coordinators with funding from Saskatchewan Health. Their roles are to develop training and handbooks, and to initiate the formal program. With additional QLO funding, they are also developing e-mentoring through the current WebCT mentorship framework.

Members of the team presented at the Western Region Canadian Association Schools of Nursing conference last year and at the SIAST Nursing Division annual meeting in August.



The Orientation to Nursing in Canada for Internationally Educated Nurses program provides internationally educated nurses with a better understanding of the Canadian health care system and develops the knowledge necessary to work as a nurse in Canada.

● CONFERENCES

Conference planned for educators of international nurses

By Bonnie Petrowich & Sandra Pettit

SIAST is excited to play host to the annual conference for educators of internationally educated nurses (IENs) in Regina, April 30-May 2, 2008.

"The conference is targeted at nurses who work with IENs in facilitating their integration and success in the Canadian workforce," said Sandra Pettit, conference organizer and program head, Re-entry, Orientation to Nursing in Canada and Diabetes Education programs at SIAST Wascana Campus.

Based on preliminary plans, conference discussions will cover such topics as cultural awareness and diversity, patient-centred care and communication, language challenges, and designing individually-tailored teaching programs.

The conference ties in with a project SIAST is currently involved in with Kwantlen University College in BC, Cégep John Abbott College in Quebec and Red River College in Winnipeg.

"SIAST is one of the partners piloting a series of modules for educators of IENs," said Sandra. "The use of these modules will be part of the conference agenda."

There will also be an opportunity to showcase SIAST's new interprofessional simulation learning centre (SLC) to conference participants.

Conference information will be available soon. Contact:

Sandra Pettit, program head, Re-entry, Orientation to Nursing in Canada & Diabetes Education programs, SIAST Wascana Campus. Tel: (306) 798-5577
Toll free: 1-866-goSIAST (467-4278).
Email: sandra.pettit@siast.sk.ca

SIAST to host CAPNE conference

The Canadian Association of Practical Nurse Educators (CAPNE) annual conference will be held in Regina on October 6-8, 2008 at the Hotel Saskatchewan.

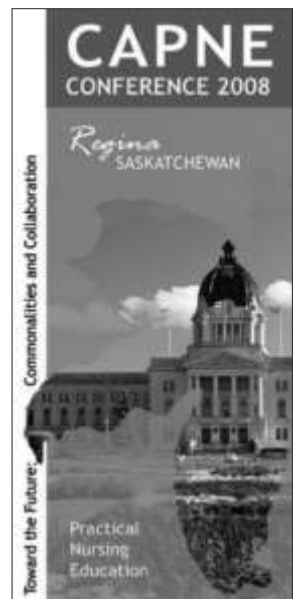
"Our team is thrilled to be able to host this important national conference and to show off Regina at the same time," says Cindy Smith, program head of Practical Nursing at SIAST Wascana Campus.

"Everyone attending can be assured of a great learning experience and a valuable opportunity for networking with colleagues and friends from across the country."

A preliminary call for abstracts has been distributed, inviting presentations that build on the theme, Toward the Future: Commonalities and Collaboration.

For further conference information or to submit an abstract, contact:

Odette Galbraith, administrative assistant, Practical Nursing program, SIAST Wascana Campus, 4500 Wascana Parkway, Regina, SK S4P 3A3.
Tel: (306) 775-7571
Toll free 1-866-goSIAST (467-4278)
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● PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Position supports scholarship, research

By Judy Boychuk Duchscher

In September 2007, the SIAST Nursing Division instituted a new faculty position: facilitator of scholarly programs and projects. The purpose of the position is to identify, evaluate, encourage and actively support ongoing research, evidence application initiatives, and scholarly activities within the Nursing Division. It is an exciting new initiative that will advance the process of scholarship development and foster a sense of professional fulfilment and job satisfaction among participating faculty. In addition, profiling the exceptional scholarship of nursing faculty will make more evident the organizational benefits to SIAST of supporting the discovery, integration and application of new knowledge by nursing faculty.

During the course of the upcoming months, I will be devoting two days a week to scholarship development in the Nursing Division. Approximately 80 per

cent of this time will be spent assessing, reviewing and evaluating five designated projects:

- 80/20 Mentorship Project
- Interprofessional Mentorship Project
- Personal Data Assistant Project
- Second Degree Entry Option Adjunct Clinical Educator Position Project
- Interprofessional Simulation Learning Centre

The remaining 20 per cent will be spent assisting individual faculty, students or scholarship groups as they initiate or develop their visions of knowledge application in nursing and health care.

I encourage you to contact me at judy.boychukduchscher@siast.sk.ca with questions about your scholarship plans or just to have an informal dialogue about nursing education, research, teaching, or practice. My door is “virtually” always open, and I hope that you will use me as a sounding (or drawing) board for your creative ideas! Take advantage of scholarly discussion forums such as the Arm-



Judy Boychuk Duchscher – Facilitator of Scholarly Projects and Programs

chair Scholarship Group and watch out for upcoming opportunities to share your scholarship inspirations. Looking forward to hearing from you!

SIAST gears up for psychiatric nursing

By Sue Myers

SIAST has been given a wonderful opportunity to develop a quality program that will address the mental health needs of the people of Saskatchewan and to demonstrate leadership in psychiatric nursing education.

The timing is excellent because Regina is to host the World Congress for Psychiatric Nurses in May 2008 and national initiatives such as the Kirby Commission and Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Initiative are raising the profile of mental health.

In March 2007, the provincial government announced that SIAST would develop and deliver a psychiatric nursing diploma program with an annual intake of 16 seats beginning in September 2008.

This was welcome news to registered psychiatric nurses (RPNs) throughout the province, as well as to other psychiatric nursing programs in the western pro-



Psychiatric Nursing Visioning Meeting, June 2007. Left to right, standing: Marion Rieger, Sue Myers, Helen Timm, Karen Barss, Don Froese, Kathy White. Seated: Caroline Hoffart, Linda Rabyj

vinces. There has been much interest, enthusiasm and renewed energy since the announcement.

In July 2007, 14 additional seats were announced, increasing the total program intake to 30 students.

The curriculum will be client-focused,

with strong emphasis on mental health promotion and primary health care. Using some courses already developed for the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS), such as biological and social sciences, will support interprofessional education initiatives.

● ACCESS FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

Partnership delivers nursing program to remote First Nation communities

By Bev Fast

The nursing shortage evident across Canada is making it tough for many smaller Aboriginal communities to recruit and retain nurses. It's a situation Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) Health Services Inc. in northern Saskatchewan is determined to address. PBCN Health Services Inc. serves approximately 8,400 members in eight communities. It is collaborating with SIAST and Northlands College in an innovative partnership to deliver SIAST's Practical Nursing program directly to three remote communities.

The pilot project launched in September 2007. There are 11 students: eight in Pelican Narrows, two in Deschambault Lake and one in Southend. Using simultaneous distance education, the students are being educated as practical nurses right in their home communities. This is what sets the program apart.

"We don't have to leave to go to the city, that's the biggest advantage," says Alvina Merasty, one of the Pelican Narrows students. "If you move to the city you have to pay rent, you have to drive back and forth – there's a cost factor. And there's family too."

Freida Olson, the lone student in Southend, agrees. "One of the reasons the program appealed to me is that it allows me to stay home with my family. When people first heard I was taking it they asked me when I was moving away. I said I don't have to move away, I take the course right here over the internet. Once they heard that, they became very interested."

Having to move away from home is a major barrier to post-secondary training for Aboriginal people in northern Saskatchewan. When you move, you leave your supports behind – family, friends, community. The resulting emotional, social and financial stress adds to the academic stress. And for many older students, moving away isn't an option; they have responsibilities to children, parents, partners and extended family.



Doreen Ballantyne takes Susan Morin's blood pressure during a session on assessing vital signs. Both students are taking SIAST's Practical Nursing program online through a partnership that includes SIAST, the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and Northlands College.

SIAST has a rich history of extending access to learners through distance education. It is a leader in online learning and has won awards for course development work through its Nursing Division. The Practical Nursing program, being delivered through the partnership with PBCN Health Services Inc. and Northlands College, is the same two-year certificate program as SIAST's on-campus program. It features a combination of interactive distance learning, simulation labs delivered in the community and clinical experiences arranged as close to the home communities as possible. Course work and hands-on experience prepares students for careers as licensed practical nurses (LPNs).

Northlands College provides student support in the PBCN communities. A program facilitator fluent in Cree travels to the communities, delivering exams and other resources, answering questions and helping students stay motivated.

Students attend "class" full time, but their classroom is virtual. As the only student in Southend, Freida works online from her home. In Pelican Narrows, Alvina joins fellow students in a common area at the local school, where they each

access coursework via computer. A variety of media and technologies are used to enhance the learning experience. Students talk to each other as well as to their instructors via email and SKYPE internet phone calls. They use iLinc web conferencing tools to watch presentations and ask questions.

"It's like having somebody right there, because you can hear the instructor while physically seeing what she's talking about. I find that very helpful," Alvina says.

Both Freida and Alvina admit they miss having face-to-face contact with instructors, but find interacting with the other students is helpful. "Staying in touch with your peers is important," Freida says. "You also have to have a lot of enthusiasm, self-discipline and be able to look ahead. It's a tough course, but I'm really enjoying it."

Graduation day in 2009 holds great promise. The success of the partnership between PBCN Health Services Inc., SIAST and Northlands could open the door to new opportunities in post-secondary education and career laddering in Aboriginal communities across northern Saskatchewan.

● MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Advancing nursing education through innovation and leadership

Innovation and leadership are requisite to effective collaboration and change management. The health care system is experiencing unprecedented change and relentless challenges relating to the nursing shortage and changing needs of Saskatchewan people. We have chosen to embrace the pace of change and be invigorated by its inherent opportunities.

The advancement of nursing education is a proactive approach to addressing the needs of the health care system. The SIAST Nursing Division is providing innovative leadership by moving forward with program expansions, new program development and educational technological advances.

Increasingly, students are finding it easier to access nursing education across the province. Program expansions are providing opportunities for greater numbers of students. The mode of program delivery is continually changing to keep pace with student needs and provide access throughout the province and beyond. Leading edge technologies are being integrated into nursing education to enhance the learning experience and prepare students for professional practice.

The capacity of the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) was expanded in Saskatoon by 18 seats in September 2007 and will be further ex-



**Netha
Dyck**
Dean
of Nursing

panded by 25 seats in September 2008. A 49-seat expansion is being planned for the Regina site. The Second Degree Entry Option (SDEO) will be increased by 10 seats in May 2008 and another 18 seats in May 2009.

The Practical Nursing program continues to grow, increasing the number of seats in existing sites, adding new sites, establishing creative partnerships, and incorporating innovative educational technology. We were delighted to begin offering the Practical Nursing program in Saskatoon in September 2007. The 28 students are excited to be able to access the education in their home community. Changing to an annual intake in Regina and Prince Albert will result in graduates every year, which will better meet the needs of employers.

Converting the entire Practical Nursing program to online delivery is creating flexibility and increased access. The innovative partnership developed between SIAST, Northlands College and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation has proven

an effective approach to delivering the online program. Students from Deschambault Lake, Pelican Narrows and Southend can now remain in their home communities while completing the theoretical courses and nursing labs. Additional delivery partnerships are being pursued with regional colleges.

The growing necessity to address mental health needs in Saskatchewan, along with the shortage of professionals skilled in mental health care and promotion, led the provincial government to announce the establishment of a 30-seat psychiatric nursing program. A team of expert psychiatric nursing faculty is enthusiastically preparing to launch the program in September 2008.

With the introduction of a state-of-the-art interprofessional simulation learning centre (SLC) at SIAST Wascana Campus, students will have the opportunity to develop competencies and participate in team-oriented clinical experiences using “real life” simulators. The SLC offers a controlled environment where there is no risk to patients. Along with psychomotor skills, students will learn communication, planning, prioritizing and teamwork, and will gain valuable insight into the roles of their future colleagues. They will engage in various clinical experiences that they might not otherwise encounter in clinical agencies. The SLC will provide experiences



SIAST Nursing Division leadership team. Left to right, back row: Kathy Dreher, Cindy Smith, Karen Ulyott, Janet Johnson, Joyce Bruce, Sandra Pettit; front row: Diane Harrison, Lynn Sheridan, Marian Morrissey, Netha Dyck, Candace Skrapek, Norma Wildeman, Sue Myers.

to more than 800 health care students per year, producing competent, confident students who are well prepared for their clinical practicum.

Recognizing mentorship as a key faculty recruitment and retention initiative, the SIAST Nursing Division has moved forward on a number of initiatives. Mentoring is being embedded in everyday activities. Each new faculty member has at least one designated mentor to assist with his or her transition, and mentor/mentee workshops are conducted to clarify and prepare faculty for their roles and responsibilities. With the appointment of two interprofessional mentorship coordinators, additional mentorship resources are being developed and implemented, including a resource manual and a web-based mentoring course.

I applaud the excellence of the SIAST Nursing Division team and congratulate

"The SIAST Nursing Division team exemplifies innovation, dedication and student-centred education."

the team on being the recipient of the 2007 Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Award (SHEA) for leadership. In 2006, the team received the Elizabeth Van Valkenburg Award for Leadership in Nursing Education presented by the SRNA.

The SIAST Nursing Division team exemplifies innovation, dedication and student-centred education. The scholarship of faculty is advancing the development and implementation of teaching best practices, integration of patient safety concepts into all nursing programs and collaboration on interprofessional education. This work is being en-

couraged and supported through mentorship, our scholar-in-residence program, and the recently established position of facilitator of scholarly projects and programs. Faculty have presented their scholarly work at various provincial, national and international conferences, and have also published in professional journals. Workshops and professional development activities are planned to assist faculty in further developing teaching excellence, interprofessional education and use of simulation.

I look forward to continued collaboration with our many partners, program advisory committees, students, faculty and staff in providing innovation and leadership. Together, we are advancing nursing education to meet the needs of the health care system and the citizens of Saskatchewan.

Netha Dyck

Award Recipients

First Nation honours retiring program head

The star blanket is steeped in First Nations' ancient lore. It is believed that stars have the power to watch over mortals on earth and impart spiritual blessings. Blankets woven with the star symbol are given as gifts to pay tribute to those whose actions have positively affected others. Each blanket is unique and custom-made for the recipient. So when Louise Frederick, retiring program head of Practical Nursing at SIAST Wascana Campus received one, she was overwhelmed.

"I was honoured and deeply touched," says Frederick. "The blanket is a beautiful work of art and holds very special

meaning."

Chief Dennis Dustyhorn of the Kawacatoose Cree Nation presented the one-of-a-kind blanket to Louise at her retirement dinner in June. Hand-made especially for her by Doreen Dustyhorn, a skilled local artisan and wife of Chief Dustyhorn, the blanket was wrapped around Louise's shoulders in a significant gesture symbolizing affection and acceptance.

"Louise was a great help and inspiration to the people of Kawacatoose. She will always be remembered for her hard work and determination in the startup of the Practical Nursing program in Kawacatoose," says Chief Dustyhorn.



Kawacatoose Cree Nation pays tribute to Louise Frederick with a star blanket



Lynn Sheridan



Judy Boychuk
Duchscher



Yvonne Warnes



Marie Darichuk



Kim Neudorf

Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Award in Leadership

● **SIAST's Nursing Division** received the 2007 Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Award (SHEA) in Leadership.

● **Lynn Sheridan**, program head, CPR/First Aid and Occupational Health and Safety Practitioner programs, received the 2007 Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association Mentorship Award.

● **Judy Boychuk Duchscher**, facilitator of scholarly projects and programs, received the 2007 Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association Effie Feeny Award for Nursing Research.

● **Yvonne Warnes**, former program head, Basic Critical Care and Perioperative Nursing programs and current project manager, SIAST Wascana Campus Simulation Learning Centre, received a Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association Life Membership.

● **Marie Darichuk**, former Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan faculty and current casual faculty, received a Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association Life Membership.

● **Kim Neudorf**, former Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan, pro-

gram and clinical coordinator, Prince Albert site, received the Mentorship Award presented by the College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan.

● **Lorna Weisbrod**, faculty and clinical placement coordinator, Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan, SIAST Wascana Campus, received the Saskatchewan Health Bursary (Specialized Professional – Nurse Educator), Saskatchewan Government Employees Union Bursary Award and Athabasca University 2007 Excellence in Research Scholarship Award.

Achievement of PhD and master's degree

● **Elaine Abrook** convocated from University of Mary, October 2006. Thesis: *The Public's Perception of the Nurse Practitioner's Role in an Urban Center.*

● **Judy Boychuk Duchscher** convocated from University of Alberta, November 2007 with a PhD in Nursing. Dissertation: *Professional Role Transition into Acute Care by Newly Graduated Baccalaureate Female Registered Nurses.*

● **Cheryl Brunoro** convocated from University of Saskatchewan, October 2007. Thesis: *Clinical Nurse Perceptions of Who Governs the Professional Environment in-*

cluding Control over Practice in Provincial Hospitals in Saskatchewan.

● **Jeniffer Dupuis** convocated from University of Saskatchewan, October 2007. Thesis: *An Exploratory Study of Physical Activity and Body Mass Index in a Sample of Rural Saskatchewan Children.*

● **Pam Farthing** will convocate from University of Saskatchewan, May 2008 with a master's of science in community health and epidemiology from the College of Medicine. Thesis: *Farming Activities and Respiratory Health in School Age Children.*

● **Sheila Kiryk** convocated from Univer-

sity of Saskatchewan, October 2007. Project: *Succession Planning in Nursing: The Time has Come.*

● **Tracie Risling** convocated from University of Saskatchewan, October 2007. Project: *Advancing Nursing Leadership: A Mentorship Imperative.*

● **Lorna Weisbrod** will convocate from Athabasca University in June 2008 with a Master of Arts – Integrated Studies degree (Specialization: Adult Education). Thesis: *Nursing Students' Perceptions of Workplace Violence: A Feminist Research Study.*

New Appointments

● **Sue Myers**, program head, Psychiatric Nursing program

● **Lynn Sheridan**, program head, CPR/First Aid and Occupational Health and Safety Practitioner programs

● **Cindy Smith**, program head, Practical Nursing, SIAST Wascana Campus

● **Jean Busby**, program head, Practical Nursing, SIAST Kelsey 4th Ave Centre

● **Judy Boychuk Duchscher**, facilitator of scholarly projects and programs

● **Tracie Risling** and **Caroline Hoffart**, interprofessional mentorship coordinators

● **Kathy White**, mental health / psychiatric nursing education coordinator, SIAST Wascana Campus

Basic Critical Care Nursing Faculty

● Trina Hill

CPR/First Aid Faculty

● Lise MacInnis

NEPS, SIAST Kelsey Campus Faculty

- Cheryl Brunoro
- Bernice Burkhardt
- Val Churko
- Joanne Folstad
- Kristen Haase
- Don Leidl
- Sheri McCrystal-Orange



Sue Myers



Lynn Sheridan



Cindy Smith



Jean Busby



Judy Boychuk Duchscher



Tracie Risling



Caroline Hoffart



Kathy White

- Cindy Olexson
- Karrie Orr
- Teri Schroeder

NEPS, SIAST Wascana Campus Faculty

- Sherry Arvidson
- Charlene Dunn
- Deanna Dunville
- Jodi Found

- Allison Hall
- Kandy Hennenfent
- Jan Patrick
- Jennelle Schermann

NEPS, Second Degree Entry Option Faculty

- Roslyn Compton
- Sheila Kiryk
- Sybil Morgan

- Cindy Sherban

Perioperative Nursing Faculty

- Esther Vanderveer

Practical Nursing SIAST Wascana Campus Faculty

- Marla Fraser
- Heather Gold
- Anne Guest
- Debbie Hill
- Lorraine Jones
- Sharon Misfeldt
- Deborah Norton

Practical Nursing Kawacatoose First Nation Faculty

- Lionel Tancrede

Practical Nursing SIAST Woodland Campus Faculty

- Diane Blue
- Aida Carandang de Leon
- Wendy Crouch
- Stacey Forgrave

Practical Nursing SIAST Kelsey 4th Ave Centre Faculty

- Nancy Anweiler
- Robyn Beitel
- Elaine Maksymiuk
- Sherry McDonald
- Alice Salter
- Joanne Sookocheff

Practical Nurse Re-entry Faculty

- Nathalie Senhouse

Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Faculty

- Bev Houk

Psychiatric Nursing Faculty

- Linda Rabyj
- Helen Timm

Psychiatric Nursing Re-entry Faculty

- Catherine New

Professional Services

- **Terry Boll**, technician, Simulation Learning Centre, SIAST Wascana Campus
- **Jennifer Braaten**, nursing simulation lab coordinator, SIAST Woodland Campus
- **Sharon Eckmire**, administrative assistant, Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan Second Degree Entry

Option.

- **Katherine Haensel**, nursing simulation lab coordinator, SIAST Kelsey Campus
- **Brenda Hudon**, administrative assistant, Practical Nursing, SIAST Woodland Campus
- **Naomi Jansen**, administrative assistant, Practical Nursing, SIAST Kelsey 4th Ave Centre
- **Judy Killaby**, senior simulation assistant, Simulation Learning Centre, SIAST Wascana Campus
- **Sandra Lees**, administrative assistant, NEPS, SIAST Kelsey Campus
- **Melissa Mantyka**, administrative assistant, NEPS, SIAST Kelsey Campus
- **Susan Morhart**, coordinator, Simulation Learning Centre, SIAST Wascana Campus
- **Jennifer Nagy**, administrative assistant, Practical Nursing, SIAST Wascana Campus
- **Charlene Patterson**, administrative assistant, NEPS, SIAST Wascana Campus
- **Margo Rosinski**, administrative assistant, Psychiatric Nursing, SIAST Wascana Campus
- **Lori Roy**, nursing simulation lab coordinator, SIAST Kelsey 4th Ave Centre
- **Linda Sachkowski**, administrative assistant, Simulation Learning Centre, SIAST Wascana Campus

Long-Service Recognition

20 years

- Hugh Garven

30 years

- Reny Loewen
- Judy Russell Doan

Retirements

- Louise Frederick
- Kim Neudorf
- Linda Rendall
- Rita Seip

Expert Appointments

- **Joyce Bruce** was appointed to a one-year term appointment on the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing Task Force on Nurse Practitioner Education and was reappointed for a one-year

term as member of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association Legislation and Bylaws Committee.

- **Lynn Sheridan** was appointed as employee co-chair of the SIAST Kelsey Campus Occupational Health and Safety Committee and as employee co-chair of the SIAST-wide Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

Scholarly Work: Presentations

- **Karen Barss** has developed the T.R.U.S.T. Model for inclusive spiritual care, which offers a quick reference grounding for an evidence-based, non-linear approach to exploration of the spiritual dimension of health. The model is currently being introduced and piloted at SIAST Kelsey Campus in the NEPS 220 (Health Assessment) course.
- **Judy Boychuk Duchscher** along with **Lisa Doepker**, **Shari Dawson**, **Katie Haynes**, **Carlena Barbour** and **Jody Kerr** co-presented *Nursing The Future: New Graduates Lead the Way* at the Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing conference in Saskatoon on February 15-17, 2007.
- **Joyce Bruce** presented *From Education to Practice: Nurse Practitioners and the Older Adult* at the Vitality of Aging: Embracing the Spirit CGNA Biennial Scientific Review and Educational conference in Winnipeg on May 2-5, 2007.
- **Joyce Bruce** and **Maureen Klenk** co-presented *Shaping Future Nurse Practitioners: Using innovative technology to advance a futuristic curriculum conceptual model* at the Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing conference in Saskatoon on February 15-17, 2007 and at the Evidence and Practice the Road to the Future 2007 CAAPN Biennial conference in Banff on October 3-4, 2007.
- **Roni Clubb** presented *Patient Safety: Curriculum Alignment to the Systems Approach* at the Canadian Association of Practical Nurse Educators conference in St. John's, NL on October 1-3, 2007.
- **Natasha Hubbard Murdoch** along with **Gitashree Heise**, **Sandra Kozowy**, **Della Breton** and **Lynn Sheridan** co-

presented *A Pilot Evaluation of Electronic Submission of Term Papers* at the Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing conference in Saskatoon on February 15-17, 2007.

● **Deb Lendzyk-Sorestad** along with **Gwen Mahar** and **Emily Harder** co-presented *Addressing the Needs of a Mentor in a Formal Nursing Faculty Mentorship Program* at the Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing conference in Saskatoon in February 2007.

● **Sherry McDonald, Natasha Hubbard Murdoch** and **Leah-Anne McLeod** co-presented *Concepto-Plan: An Alternative Education Tool* at the Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing conference in Saskatoon in February 2007.

● **Lucia New** and **Tracie Risling** co-presented *A Classroom that Clicks: Using Technology to Enhance Student Engagement* at the Canadian Association of Schools of Nurses Nurse Educators conference in Kingston in November 2007.

● **Linda Oblander** presented *Welcome to Quinton – The SIAST and Kawacatoose Connection* at the Canadian Association of Practical Nurse Educators conference in St. John's, NL on October 1-3, 2007.

● **Marg Olfert** along with **Kathryn Knox** and **Patti Manson** co-presented *Establishing a Community of Scholarship* at the Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing conference in Saskatoon on February 15-17, 2007.

● **Susan Page** and **Roni Clubb** co-presented *Charting the Course: The Journey from Student to Licensed Practical Nurse* at the Canadian Association of Practical Nurse Educators conference in St. John's, NL on October 1-3, 2007 and at the Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses annual general meeting in Regina on May 1, 2007.

● **Tracie Risling** presented *A Culture of Mentorship: Building our Future Faculties* at the Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing conference in Saskatoon on February 15-17, 2007.

● **Tracie Risling** and **Lynn Sheridan** co-

presented *Faculty Mentorship: Recruitment, Retention and Rejuvenation Strategies* at the Association of Canadian Community Colleges conference in Montreal, May 2007.

● **Darlene Scott** presented *Building Interprofessional Health Science Student Team Experiences* at the Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing conference in Saskatoon on February 15-17, 2007.

● **Darlene Scott** along with **Katherine Stevenson**, Health Quality Council; **Angela Busch**, School of Physical Therapy, University of Saskatchewan; and **Roy Dobson**, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan, co-presented *Using a Quality Improvement Framework to Facilitate Interprofessional Collaboration in Undergraduate Health Sciences Education* at the International Conference 2007 Practice Makes Perfect: Education of Professionals in Community, Clinical and Simulated Settings in Vancouver on November 4-7, 2007.

● **Lynn Sheridan** presented *Novice to Expert Nurse Educator Development: Formal Mentorship Program* at the Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (WRCASN) conference in Saskatoon on February 15-17, 2007, and *Leveraging Formal Mentorship to Improve Nurse Educator Transition from Novice to Expert Practitioner* at the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing conference in Kingston on November 21-24, 2007.

● **Ann-Marie Urban** presented *Improving Clinical Research: Nursing Students Use the World Wide Web to Enhance Their Patient Knowledge* at the Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing conference in Saskatoon on February 15-17, 2007.

● **Norma Wildeman** and **Ann-Marie Urban** co-presented *Interprofessional Patient Safety a Dual Strategy Project* at the Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing conference in Saskatoon on February 15-17, 2007.

● **Patricia Zip** presented *Sexual Health Promotion Following Disability: A Nursing and Collaborative Team Approach* at the Western Region

Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing conference in Saskatoon on February 15-17, 2007.

Scholarly Work: Publications

● **Joyce Bruce** published *Shortage of Nurse Practitioner Educators: Online Tutors as a Solution* in *Nurse Educator* 33(3).

● **Lynn Sheridan** has submitted *Mentorship Development Model: A Faculty Development, Recruitment and Retention Strategy* for publication in the *Journal of Professional Nursing*.

● **Kim Neudorf, Diana Davidson Dick, Netha Dyck, Darlene Scott** submitted *Nursing Education: A Catalyst for the Patient Safety Movement* for publication in *Heath Care Quarterly, Patient Safety Papers*.

● **Denise Nelson and Carol Blenkin** published *The Power of Online Role-Play Simulations: Technology in Nursing Education* in the *International Journal of Nursing Education Scholarship*, 2007, 4(1).

Program Approvals

● **ORNAC Approval** – Perioperative Nursing RN Program (3 years)

● **RPNAS Approval** – Psychiatric Nursing Re-entry (5 years)

● **SRNA Approval** – Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (5 years)

● **SRNA Approval** – Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan and Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan Second Degree Entry Option (5 years)

Acknowledgement

Special acknowledgement to **Bonnie Petrowich** as contributing writer for this issue of the newsletter.

SIAST Nursing Division *Advancing Health*

Mission

The SIAST Nursing Division meets the needs of students, employers and our communities by advancing health through excellence in education for the 21st century.

Vision

The SIAST Nursing Division is a leader in superior education, focused on students, lifelong learning and scholarship, and contributes as an academic division of SIAST in advancing the health and social and economic prosperity of Saskatchewan.

Values

Student-centred, collaborative, accessible, pro-active, future-oriented, innovative, responsive, supportive, and knowledge-based, with an integrated local-to-global vision.

How to reach us

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CPR/First Aid
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Nursing continuing education programs and courses
(306) 775-7689

Nursing Division programs

The SIAST Nursing Division provides an extensive range of undergraduate and continuing nursing education programs, drawing more than 3,000 students annually. It offers on-campus programming at four locations, outreach programming across Saskatchewan and a broad array of distance education options. The division is part of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology, Saskatchewan's primary provider of post-secondary technical education and skills training.

- Advanced Diabetes Education Program for Health Care Providers
- Basic Diabetes Education Program for Health Care Providers
- Basic Critical Care Nursing
- CPR/First Aid courses
- Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) and NEPS Second Degree Entry Option
- Nursing Re-entry
- Occupational Health and Safety Practitioner
- Orientation to Nursing in Canada for Internationally Educated Nurses
- Perioperative Nursing/LPN
- Perioperative Nursing/RN
- Practical Nursing
- Practical Nurse Re-entry
- Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric Nursing (under development)
- Psychiatric Nursing Re-entry

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