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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing launches in Swift Current

The first class of eight students was officially welcomed to the new Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing (SCBScN) program today in Swift Current with a presentation by representatives from Great Plains College, Cypress Health Region, the University of Regina, SIAS and the Ministry of Central Services.

“We’re excited to have another group of multi-year students on campus—particularly through the delivery of such a high-demand program—and also for the futures of these eight students, who have chosen to access training they may not have otherwise pursued,” said Great Plains College president and CEO David Keast.

The SCBScN degree comes to Swift Current as the result of a November 2012 agreement between the college, the university, the health region and SIAS.

“The presence of the program right here in Swift Current provides many benefits for everyone involved,” said Beth Vachon, CEO for Cypress Health Region. “The health region looks forward to playing a role as the future registered nurses move through their four-year educational program. Access to our facilities, simulation laboratory technology, practicum opportunities, and staff mentorship will offer the students the practical component of the nursing education.”

Eight students per year will be accepted into the four-year program, during which they will make use of the practicum lab at Cypress Regional Hospital in Swift Current as well as the newly renovated lab and increased Internet bandwidth at Great Plains College. Applications will be accepted each school year from Oct. 1-Feb. 15.

“While this historic agreement certainly marks another step forward in our ongoing relationships with the University of Regina and Great Plains College, our biggest source of pride today is being able to offer a previously-unheard of opportunity to students in southwest Saskatchewan,” said Netha Dyck, dean of Nursing at SIAS.

The first graduates of the program will earn their degrees in the spring of 2017, after which they can write the national licensure exam to become registered nurses.

“The demand for nurses in Saskatchewan continues to grow and this program represents a unique and welcome opportunity to address that need,” said David Gregory, dean of the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Regina. “We are proud to see this unprecedented partnership take flight and wish only the best for the students who will take advantage of this opportunity.”

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