

September 20, 2010

New generation nursing degree worth the wait

Hopeful nursing students spent two nights camped outside SIAST campuses across the province, waiting for applications to the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program to open on Sept. 15 at 8 a.m.

The would-be students were concerned they would miss out if they didn't stand in line because applications are reviewed on a first-qualified, first-admitted basis. That process means that students who meet the criteria for academic success in the program are accepted in the order in which they apply. The process lets students know relatively early whether they have been accepted.

A final count on unduplicated, qualified applications is not yet available, but prospective students are encouraged to continue to apply – the earlier, the better.

"It's cold but it's worth it in the end," Melissa Anthony told CBC News outside during a steady downpour the night before registration opened. "It's your education. This is how you're going to make your money, so if we have to wait a couple of hours it's worth it."

"People line up on Boxing Day to get a TV or to get Justin Bieber tickets. I think my education is more important than Justin Bieber," agreed Jake Sojonsky.

When SIAST staff learned of the line-ups they helped create shelters and provided hot chocolate for those in line.

SIAST Kelsey, Palliser and Wascana campuses opened their doors at 6 a.m. on Sept. 15, and staff came in early to respond to questions.

All applications are date and time stamped as they come in.

The new program benefits from SIAST's expertise in nursing education and from the University of Regina's reputation for research in several health related fields. The program will provide students with the opportunity to start their nursing education in Year 1, featuring both patient contact and nursing courses in the first year.

As required by Saskatchewan legislation, all new and revised nursing education programs must be approved by the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA), the professional regulatory body for nursing. Approval of the SCBScN program by the SRNA is pending. The SCBScN program was reviewed by SIAST Deans' Council and approved by the Senate of the University of Regina in June.

For more information about the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing click [here](#) .

Story written by Kelly-Anne Riess, mySIAST Editor