

June 2016

RN to BSN

A newsletter from
THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

AT SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society



The SMSU Department of Nursing is spearheading the development of the Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society. Charter President Nancyruth Leibold describes the Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society as inclusive of nurses in a variety of locations and settings in Southwest Minnesota who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service.

The Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society plans to host the first induction in the fall of 2016 and their first Research/Practice Conference in 2017. The Society will apply to become a Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) chapter, which is a process that takes several years. STTI is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the health of people worldwide through leadership and scholarship in practice, education, and research. Founded in 1922, members include practicing nurses, instructors, researchers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and others.

The honor society's more than 480 chapters are located at institutions of higher education throughout the United States, as well as in Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ghana, Hong Kong, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Swaziland, Sweden, Taiwan, Tanzania, and Wales. Membership to the Society happens in two ways: 1) invitation as an undergraduate in a nursing program once half the nursing curriculum is completed, or 2) a nurse with a baccalaureate degree may apply for membership as a nurse leader. Contact the Society Counselor, Laurie Johansen at laurie.johansen@smsu.edu for membership inquiries.



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SMSU RN to BSN Spring 2016 Nurse Pinning Ceremony



On May 6, 2016, twelve graduates of the SMSU RN to BSN Program celebrated their accomplishments at the Spring 2016 Nurse Pinning Ceremony. The Nurse Pinning Ceremony is a special ceremony given for the graduating nursing students, family, and friends. The ceremony provides an opportunity to pay homage to the highly respected field of nursing and the special kind of graduate it takes to fill the shoes of a nurse. Students receiving pins become part of history through the legacy of the tradition of the nursing pin, a symbol of service to others.

The nursing pin is a type of badge, in this case a gold pin, worn by nurses to identify the nursing school from which they graduate. The SMSU Nursing Pin has a unique design, bearing the Southwest Minnesota State University Seal with the word Nursing underlining the emblem. This nursing pin is a proud symbol of the traditions shared by nurses across the country. The nursing pin is traditionally presented to the newly graduated nurse during a pinning ceremony as a symbolic welcome into the profession. Although some of the traditions of nursing have been eliminated in this modern age, the nursing pin has survived. The nurse badge, a precursor to the pin, has its roots in 1855 when Queen Victoria presented Florence Nightingale with the cross of St. George in appreciation for her work caring for the British soldiers.

Guest presenter at the Nurse Pinning Ceremony was Dr. Marg Hegge, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Nursing at South Dakota State University, performing a portrayal of Florence Nightingale's life. Dr. Hegge has led tours to England in the footsteps of Florence Nightingale and has portrayed Florence Nightingale over 50 times. She has collected memorabilia on Nightingale's life for two decades and has written multiple article about her impact on nursing and healthcare. She continues to be inspired by Florence Nightingale's courage, patience, and perseverance.



The SMSU RN to BSN Program would like to acknowledge the SMSU Foundation for the special grant funding to support this important event.



RN to BSN Students Present at the 2015 SMSU Undergraduate Research Conference

Seven RN to BSN completion students at Southwest Minnesota State University presented their Evidence-Based Practice Project Poster at the 2015 SMSU Undergraduate Research Conference on December 2, 2015. The seven students who authored the project and poster are Jessica Matt, Jordyn Hetland, Melissa Kidrowski, Marcia Balster, Megan Loew, Jennie Wigen and Bonnie Parsons. The poster, titled *Oh Baby! Using Essential Oils for Pain Management During Labor and Delivery*, reviewed the use of essential oils to manage pain and nausea in laboring women. The poster was very popular at the conference by attendees. Research Conference Director Dr. Emily Deaver commented that she heard many positive comments about the poster! The poster is on display for long-term viewing in the hallway outside the Department of Nursing at SMSU. Congratulations to Jessica, Jordyn, Melissa, Marcia, Megan, Jennie, and Bonnie!



The annual SMSU Undergraduate Research Conference is a one-day conference for SMSU students to highlight their scholarly work. The 2016 SMSU Undergraduate Research Conference is scheduled for November 30, 2016.

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 2016 and spring 2017. Information is available at <http://www.smsu.edu/academics/programs/rntobsn/>.

Mark Your Calendar!

- Aug. 18-21 Gold Rush Days
- Aug. 19 Convocation
- Aug. 22 Fall 2016 Classes Begin
- Oct. (TBA) Homecoming
- Nov. 30 Undergraduate Research Conf.
- Dec. 9 Last Day of Classes
- Jan. 9 Spring 2017 Classes Began
- Mar. 6-10 Spring Break
- Mar. 23 Fall 2017 Registration Begins
- Apr. 28 Last Day of Classes
- May 6 Commencement
- May 22 Summer 2017 Session Begins



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