

Northern Nursing Program







Spring 2015 Convocation

Our first northern students graduated on June 4, 2015! Donna Banach, Stacy Charles, Christina Davies, Jessica Emisch, Tara Glover, Kristen McKenzie and Danielle Stilborn graduated from the La Ronge site. Bernice Desjardin, Phyllis Probert and Savannah Sylvestre completed their program at the Ile-a-la-Crosse site. A huge congratulations to each of them! At the time of convocation, seven of the ten graduates had been offered nursing positions in the North.

In order to celebrate this milestone, a graduation celebration was held in La Ronge on May 8, which included remarks from Lac La Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook-Searson, Mayor Thomas Sierzycki, Saskatoon Greystone MLA Rob Norris (on behalf of the Ministry of Advanced Education), Cumberland Constituency MLA Doyle Vermette, Guy Penney, Director of Academic



(I to r) Donna Banach, Savannah Sylvestre, Christina Davies, Phylis Probert, Jessica Emisch, Stacey Charles, Tara Glover, Dean Dr. Lorna Butler

Programming for Northlands College and Andrew McLetchie, CEO of the Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region (MCRHR).

In Ile-a-la-Crosse on May 9, celebrations continued with Athabasca MLA Buckley Belanger, Mayor Duane Favel, Northlands
College Manager of University
Programming Karla Hardcastle and
Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health
Authority (KYRHA) CEO Jean-Marc
Desmeules congratulating graduates
on behalf of their respective
organizations.

Student Applications for 2015/16

The College of Nursing has an annual intake of 15 seats in the North per academic year. This spring, we received 12 student applications for Ile-a-la-Crosse and 19 for La Ronge. It is important to note, these are applications, not admissions, given most students take Chemistry 112 in the spring term, which is a prerequisite for admission into nursing. The final admission numbers will

depend on the successful completion of the Chemistry course; however, the numbers are quite positive relative to other years.

At present, projections for continuing students in fall 2015 are six students entering year four (three are out of cohort), six entering year three (one is out of cohort) and four out of cohort repeating part of year two, in addition to new entrants.

Last fall we indicated there were no second year students at the Ile-a-la-Crosse site. However, in the winter term, one student from Prince Albert and another from La Ronge relocated to Ile-a-la-Crosse; therefore, we achieved our minimum number of students to offer the courses. As a result, Ile-a-la-Crosse had cohorts in all three years.

Northern Nursing Education Network

The University of Saskatchewan, along with co-leads Arctic University of Norway and North-Eastern Federal University, successfully gained official University of the Arctic Thematic Network status during their last Council meeting on June 15, 2015. The Northern Nursing Education Network has 12 institutional members from Canada, Finland, Norway, Greenland, Iceland and Russia. The goals of the Network are to:

- Conduct research assessing methods of teaching most appropriate for northern nursing education;
- Share best practices amongst northern nursing educators;
- Track northern nursing education programs, teaching models and recruitment and retention rates;
- Establish the Innovative Learning Institute for Circumpolar Health to allow northern nursing students to meet and learn from their counterparts around the Circumpolar North;
- Evaluate the regulation of nursing practice in a northern context across the Circumpolar North;
- Explore different uses of technology to improve accessibility and quality of clinical instruction; and
- Facilitate the transfer of knowledge between circumpolar health researchers, nursing educators and students.



(left) Dean Dr. Lorna Butler and (right) Dr. Heather Exner-Pirot in Yakutsk, Siberia

Study Abroad in Yakutsk, Siberia

Incoming fourth year students
Jeanne Kusch (Ile-a-la-Crosse) and
Janet MacKenzie (La Ronge) have
been awarded \$5,000 bursaries from
the International Centre for Northern
Governance and Development to
travel to Yakutsk, Russia (Siberia)
to attend a two week Innovative
Learning Institute in Northern Nursing
Education in August 2015. The
students will learn about northern
and indigenous health care from
a Yakutian perspective. We have

worked closely with the North-Eastern Federal University (NEFU) in Yakutia, Yakutsk for several years and expect Jeanne and Janet will experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Yakutia is the largest state in Russia and has about one million inhabitants, including approximately 50 percent who are ethnic Yakuts. Northern Yakuts are historically semi-nomadic hunters, fishermen and reindeer breeders. Yakutsk is the coldest city in the world.

Clinical Placements

Clinical and lab experiences are a very important part of the nursing program and provide an opportunity for students to develop their nursing skills and knowledge.

The following clinical experiences were provided for the northern nursing program in the 2014-15 academic year:

YEAR IN PROGRAM	COURSE	# OF STUDENTS	LOCATION OF PLACEMENT	TIME FRAME	CLINICAL HOURS
2	NURS 202	8	La Ronge Hospital - Long Term Care Unit	November 27, 28 and December 4, 2014	24
2	NURS 221	8	Battleford Hospital - Medical and Surgical Unit	May 26 - June 27, 2015	144
3	NURS 333	6	Battleford Hospital - Medical and Surgical Unit	November 3 - 27, 2014	156
3	NURS 331	8	Victoria Hospital, Prince Albert - Obstetrical Unit	March 9 - 20, 2015	78
3	NURS 331	8	Rossignol School, Ile-a-la-Crosse	- - March 23 - April 2, 2015 -	78
			Senator Myles Venne School and		
			Bells Points Elementary School, La Ronge		
			Pediatrics		
3	NURS 308	8	La Ronge Community Mental Health - Inpatient Mental Health and Addictions Services	May 25 - June 19, 2015	156
			lle-a-la-Crosse Community Mental Health		
4	NURS 431	10	Lac La Ronge Indian Band - Public Health and Home Care	September 5 - December 3, 2014	260
			MCRHR Community Health and Home Care		
			KYRHA Public Health		
4	NURS 450	10	Preceptorship Placements:	January 5 - April 2, 2015	360
			La Ronge Health Centre		
			St. Joseph's Hospital and Health Centre		
			Stanley Mission Health Centre		
			Meadow Lake Hospital		
			Prince Albert Victoria Hospital		
			Melville Health Centre		

Long term care and pediatric clinical placements have been relatively easy to establish; however, it has been challenging to secure sufficient and appropriate mental health clinical placements.



Community Outreach

- The College of Nursing once again helped organize the Northern Lights School Division Health Career Symposium in Prince Albert on March 17. We also participated in the Beauval Health Career Fair on May 14 and the La Ronge & Area Career Symposium on May 29.
- The College of Nursing is supporting the expansion of the University of Saskatchewan's Science Ambassador Program to schools in Ile-a-la-Crosse and Cumberland House.

 The Science Ambassador program is managed by the College of Arts & Science, and pairs senior university science,
- engineering and health science students with rural and remote Aboriginal community schools, to support creative and culturally-relevant science teaching and learning.
- its RP7i robot, which was previously used for university programming to teach students clinical skills, to the Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority (KYRHA) for clinical use. We have purchased the newer robot model, the RP-Vita, for university programming going forward. We look forward to hearing about the health region's innovative clinical applications of the robot.

GraduateEducationOpportunities

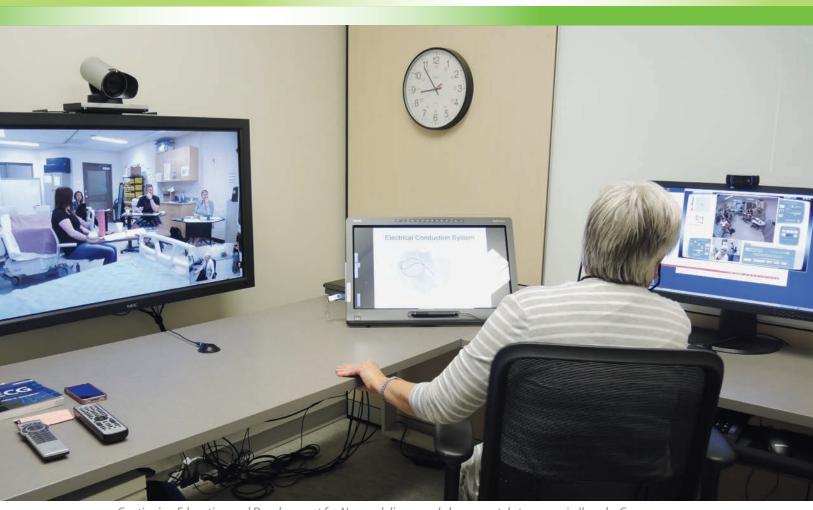
The College of Nursing's Master in Nursing (MN) program is offered online, making it easier for Registered Nurses in rural and remote communities to complete the requirements without leaving home or stopping work.

The College has recently established a \$5,000 entrance scholarship for all Aboriginal graduate students to encourage greater Aboriginal representation in health care administration, advanced practice, teaching and research.

To discuss the graduate program, contact Jill Brown at (306) 966-6231 or jill.brown@usask.ca.

Application Deadlines

MN (thesis & course-based)	February 1
MN-NP (Nurse Practitioner)	January 15
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	February 1



Continuing Education and Development for Nurses delivers workshop remotely to nurses in Ile-a-la-Crosse

Research and Innovation

Research

- Drs. Carol Ann Bullin and Jill Bally, who teach in the northern nursing program, travelled to Norway in June 2015 to conduct research on the distributed nursing education experience in northern Norway.
- Dr. Shelly Spurr, who teaches pediatrics in the northern nursing program, received a grant to examine diabetes risk factors in northern school-aged children.
- Drs. Heather Exner-Pirot and Lorna Butler authored a Conference Board of Canada report entitled *Healthy Founda*-

tions: Nursing's Role in Building Strong Aboriginal Communities, which presents the model used for nursing education in northern Saskatchewan.

Innovation

The College of Nursing launched its RP-Express 'robots' in Yakutsk, Siberia and Manila, Philippines in January 2015. The robots were purchased through a grant awarded to Lorna Butler and Heather Exner-Pirot from Grand Challenges Canada, to establish an international partnership and develop new approaches for clinical education delivery in

- rural and remote regions using technology.
- Education and Development for Nurses (CEDN) program delivered for the first time, a Cardiology Update workshop to Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority (KYRHA) nurses on May 22 using Remote Presence technology. Given this was the first time the program has been delivered remotely, it was a groundbreaking and successful event. CEDN had previously delivered an in-person foot care workshop in KYRHA.



Celebration bursary award winner Joanna Lariviere and Karla Hardcastle, Manager, University Planning , Northlands College

UCAN Launch

The College of Nursing launched its new Aboriginal student support program, *University of Saskatchewan Community of Aboriginal Nursing* (UCAN), this spring. UCAN expands services the college previously offered to Aboriginal students with the addition of a Pathway to enter the college (career camps, \$500 science & math bursaries, learning communities) and a successful transition into the nursing workforce (mentorship, National Council

Licensure Examination (NCLEX) preparation support and graduate program entrance scholarships). Joanna Lariviere (La Ronge) and Phyllis Probert (Ile-a-la-Crosse) each received a \$1,500 UCAN celebration bursary, which were awarded at our northern UCAN launch events on April 7 and 8. To learn more about the UCAN Pathway, visit: www.usask.ca/nursing/aboriginal/pathways.php.

Mentorship

The College of Nursing has established an Aboriginal mentorship program to prepare our graduates for transition to the workplace, ensuring successful Aboriginal nursing students become successful Aboriginal Registered Nurses. Ile-a-la-Crosse fourth year nursing student Bernice Desjardin participated in our first mentorship program with mentor Merle Nightingale, a Public Health Nurse at Prairie North Health Region and the Regional HIV Coordinator.

The College of Nursing will continue to organize mentorships for fourth year students next spring. If you are a Registered Nurse working in the Northern Administrative District and interested in being a mentor, please contact heather.exner@usask.ca or apply at www.usask.ca/nursing/aboriginal/docs/AboriginalMentorRegistration2016.pdf.



(I to r) Merle Nightingale (mentor) with Bernice Desjardin (mentee)

For more information, comments or suggestions, please contact:

Dr. Mary Ellen Andrews Acting Associate Dean, North and North Western Saskatchewan Campus and Rural and Remote Engagement

(306) 966-8523

me.andrews@usask.ca

Previous Reports

The fall 2014, spring 2014 and fall 2014 Northern Nursing Program Semi-Annual Reports are available on our website: www.usask.ca/nursing.



