Northern Nursing Program





College of Nursing



College of Nursing

Introduction

In September 2012, the College of Nursing began offering a full Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in Ile-a-la-Crosse and La Ronge. To keep regional stakeholders informed about our programming, it was decided we would provide semi-annual reporting on program indicators, such as student numbers and success rates, clinical placements, K-12 outreach and relevant research activities. Our hope is that by working closely with local stakeholders we will:

- 1) improve recruitment and retention;
- provide a nursing education that is contextually relevant for our northern students;
- leverage clinical placements and other program components to positively impact northern health; and
- position our graduates to be community leaders and improve northern health, through both individual efforts and structural reforms.

We will continue to seek and invest in relationships that are mutually beneficial for the College, our students and our northern partners. We appreciate your guidance in developing these.



4th year La Ronge nursing student Jessica Emisch

Student Registration for 2014/15

The nursing seat distribution continues to be five seats in lle-a-la-Crosse and 10 seats in La Ronge per academic year. This spring we received 11 applications for lle-a-la-Crosse and 18 for La Ronge; unfortunately, a majority of the applicants were not qualified. They either did not meet the minimum requirements of admission, mainly related to

Total Number of Students Admitted 2012-2014 (2012-14; 2013 – 8; 2014- 6)	28
Total Still in Program (ILX 5; La Ronge 19)	24 (86%)
Number Out-of-Cohort	4 (17%)
Aboriginal Representation	20 (83%)

UNIVERSITY OF

deficiencies in the Pre-Professional Year (1st year of Arts and Science), and/or had inadequate marks in the science courses - CHEM 112, Nutrition 120, Statistics 244 and Biology 120. As a result, we do not have a 2nd year cohort in Ile-a-la-Crosse and we filled six of the ten seats in La Ronge for the 2014-15 academic year.

The percentage of students who have self-declared as Aboriginal is 83% (20/24). Three are Métis, sixteen are First Nations and one did not specify.

College of Nursing academic advisors visited students in La Ronge who were unsuccessful in June to discuss their best options going forward.

Recruitment Efforts

The College of Nursing remains primarily focused on the quality, not quantity, of the undergraduate nursing program. At the moment, the smaller than expected enrolment numbers are not a big concern; however, there is an opportunity cost to not filling the 15 northern nursing seats, which we are very interested in addressing.

The biggest challenge lies in the K-12 science preparation of potential northern nursing students. Students need to get through the science-heavy pre-professional year and subsequently succeed in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and pass their final nursing registration exam (NCLEX) to become Registered Nurses. Northlands College has made, and continues to make, efforts to provide support for students in the Pre-Professional Year. In addition, the College of Nursing has provided additional funding to the <u>University of</u> <u>Saskatchewan's Science Ambassador</u> <u>program</u> to expand its offering to Rossignol High School in Ile-a-la-Crosse. We are very interested in partnering with northern Saskatchewan stakeholders across the Northern Administrative District to match scholarships, provide tutorial support and otherwise encourage and support prospective candidates in the high school sciences, Adult Basic Education and in pre-nursing. Please contact us if you have any opportunities or ideas we could collaborate on.

3

Innovative Teaching

Our northern sites continue to push boundaries in terms of adopting new technology to improve and expand educational and clinical opportunities for students.

Nursing faculty member Dr. Jill Bally and her team (Drs. Lorna Butler, Alyssa Hayes, Shelley Spurr, Heather Exner-Pirot, Mary Ellen Andrews and Mark Tomtene and Robin Thurmeier) won an InTouch Health Outstanding Acute Care Telemedicine Achievement Award at the Remote Presence Clinical Innovations Forum in Santa

(I to r) Robin Thurmeier, Dr. Carol Bullin, Mark Tomtene, Dr. Lorna Butler, Dr. Jill Bally and Dr. Heather Exner-Pirot. Missing: Drs. Shelley Spurr, Mary Ellen Andrews and Alyssa Hayes (College of Dentistry).

Barbara, California. The award was in recognition of the College's oral health program at the two northern sites, which delivered oral health screenings and care to children during the 3rd year pediatric rotations at northern schools.

Some of the 2nd year and 3rd year labs were integrated virtually between Ile-a-la-Crosse and La Ronge to provide a larger, more dynamic lab experience for the different cohorts, the first time this has been done. We are continuing to explore new ways to introduce medical uses of the Remote Presence technology in partnership with the Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region and Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority.

We have signed a contribution agreement with Keewatin Yatthé to leverage the nurse educator role to also provide lab instruction to our lle-a-la-Crosse students.

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 were the clinical experiences provided for the

northern nursing program in the 2014-15 academic year:

The College has had some difficulty finding enough placements for Bachelor of Science in Nursing students in local health regions, in particular within the Mamawetan Churchill River Health Authority. We hope to work collaboratively going forward to ensure the health regions can host sufficient numbers of our students and promote retention locally.

YEAR IN PROGRAM	COURSE	# OF STUDENTS	LOCATION OF PLACEMENT	TIME FRAME	CLINICAL HOURS
2	NURS 202	6	La Ronge Long Term Care Unit	Nov 26, 27, Dec 3	24
2	NURS 221	6	La Ronge Health Centre	May 29 - June 30	144
3	NURS 333	7	North Battleford Hospital - Medical and Surgical Unit	Nov 3 - Nov 26	156
3 NUR		IURS 331 8	Prince Albert Victoria Hospital - Obstetrical (OBS) Unit	March 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18	78
	NURS 331		Schools in La Ronge and Ile-a-la-Crosse - Pediatrics (PEDS)	March 23 - April 2	78
					Total: 156
3 NUF	NURS 308	NURS 308 8	La Ronge Community Mental Health; Inpatient Mental Health; Addictions Services	– May 25 - June 19	156
			Ile-a-la-Crosse Community Mental Health		
4 NUR		NURS 431 10	Lac La Ronge Indian Band - Public Health and Home Care	Sept 5 - Dec 3	260
	NURS 431		Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority - Community Health and Home Care		
			Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority - Public Health		
4 N			Preceptorship Placements:		
	NURS 450 10	La Ronge Health Centre Ile-a-la-Crosse Hospital 50 10 Stanley Mission Health Centre Meadow Lake Hospital Prince Albert Victoria Hospital	La Ronge Health Centre	-	
			lle-a-la-Crosse Hospital		
			Jan 5 - April 2	360	
			Meadow Lake Hospital	-	
			Prince Albert Victoria Hospital		
				Melville Health Centre	

5

Graduate Education Opportunities

The College of Nursing Master in Nursing 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.

In addition, the College just approved two Aboriginal equity seats in the Nurse Practitioner (NP) program, meaning Aboriginal applicants will have to meet minimum requirements for the program, but will not compete with other applicants for admission. NP's are in demand in Aboriginal communities across the province and we hope to meet some of the need and demand with this initiative. A majority of the NP program can also be done remotely to accommodate rural and remote students.

Spring 2015 Convocation

Our first northern nursing graduates will convocate in Spring 2015! We anticipate 10 graduates. This will be an exciting and momentous day and planning is underway to celebrate these incredible students' achievements.

Community Outreach

Northern Lights School Division Health Career Symposium in Prince Albert The College of Nursing attended the Open Doors to Tomorrow event in Prince Albert on October 29th and visited Buffalo Narrows, Ile-a-la-Crosse and Canoe Lake on October 22 & 23, 2014. If you are interested in hosting a College of Nursing information session or visit, let us know, we'd love to come!

We are starting to plan the fourth annual Northern Lights School Division Health Career Symposium in Prince Albert on March 17-18, 2015 and could expand our health career events to other interested communities.

College of Nursing and School of Public health staff and faculty met with Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority (NITHA) staff and leadership in August 2014 to learn more about NITHA's programs and activities and to establish relationships by which to foster more collaboration.



Nursing students with Dr. Lorna Butler (College of Nursing) and Lisa-Bourque-Bearskin (ANAC) at ANAC Annual Conference

Student Travel

Due to continued unrest in Ukraine and political tension within Russia, the planned Summer Institute in Yakutsk, Russia was postponed. In lieu of that experience, award winners Phyllis Probert, Savannah Sylvestre and Jessica Emisch were offered to attend the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada annual conference in Winnipeg in October. Due to extenuating circumstances, only Jessica was able to attend, along with four College of Nursing Aboriginal students from Regina and Saskatoon. It was an incredible learning experience and the College of Nursing signed a memorandum of understanding with the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada (ANAC) at the event.

We hope to have new opportunities for student travel to Yakutsk this year.

7

Mentorships

The College of Nursing will be organizing mentorships for fourth year nursing students this spring. If you are a Registered Nurse working in the Northern Administrative District and are interested in being a mentor, please contact Heather Exner-Pirot (heather.exner@usask.ca). A detailed call for mentors will go out in early 2015.

Research

The College of Nursing was successful in securing a grant with a Norwegian partner, UiT the Arctic University of Norway, to establish a regional network of universities that offer baccalaureate-level nursing programs in northern communities. To that end, we have initiated a survey of five Canadian and one Norwegian northern nursing programs (UVic – Yellowknife; Dalhousie – Iqaluit; UNBC – Prince George, Terrace and Quesnel; University of Manitoba – The Pas and Thompson; UiT – Nordreisa, Lanvik and Målselv) in order to better understand existing models, best practices and challenges. We hope the Network will allow us to improve our program over time as we apply lessons learned from others and provide new opportunities for student mobility to northern communities and research on northern nursing practice. Prince Albert faculty member Dr. Sithokozile Maposa worked with Master of Public Health student Maleeha Sami on a project over summer 2014 evaluating Prince Albert and northern Saskatchewan's strategies to addressing HIV and AIDS. Sami, Maposa and NITHA Infection Control Advisor Ivan Serunkuma presented to Prince Albert, Ile-a-la-Crosse and La Ronge 4th year students on this topic in October 2014.

Previous Reports

The Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 Northern Nursing Program Semi-Annual Reports are available on our website: www.usask.ca/nursing.

For more information, comments or suggestions, please contact:

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

(306) 966-8523

me.andrews@usask.ca





College of Nursing