



Northern Nursing Program



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Nursing
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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. In order to keep our regional stakeholders informed about our programming, we have provided regular reporting on program indicators, such as student numbers and success rates, clinical placements, outreach and relevant research activities. It is our hope that by working closely with local stakeholders we will:

- 1) improve recruitment and retention
- 2) provide a nursing education that is contextually relevant for our northern students
- 3) leverage clinical placements and other program components to positively impact regional health care and
- 4) position our graduates to be community leaders and improve regional health outcomes.

We hope you enjoy the 2017 update. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or suggestions!



Previous Reports

 Five previous Northern Nursing Program reports dating to Fall 2013 are available on our website: <https://nursing.usask.ca/aboriginalinitiatives/northern-nursing.php>

■ Student Applications for 2017/18 & Overall Student Demographics

The nursing student seat allocation for northern Saskatchewan is officially 15 – normally five for Ile-a-la-Crosse and ten for La Ronge per academic year. In order to be admitted into the College of Nursing, prospective students must have successfully completed a Pre-Professional Year of ten (30 credit units) Arts and Science classes, including Chemistry, Biology and Statistics. In addition, students need to be long term residents of the Northern Administrative District. Officially, students are admitted into the College of Nursing in “Year 2”.

In fall of 2017 the College admitted three Year 2 students to the Ile-a-la-Crosse site and eight to La Ronge. In total, the northern nursing program has 42 students, an increase of 13.5% from 2016-2017.

Students studying in La Ronge currently come from the communities of Air Ronge, Black Lake, Canoe Narrows, Deschambault Lake, La Ronge, Pinehouse Lake, Prince Albert, Southend, Stanley Mission, Weyakwin and Wollaston Lake. Students studying in Ile-a-la-Crosse currently come from Canoe Narrows, Buffalo Narrows, Ile-a-la-Crosse and Green Lake.

Within our Northern cohort, 93% of students have self-declared as Aboriginal; all of them are female. In the future, it would be beneficial to recruit more male students into the program, as this would be significant in helping to shift to a more gender-proportional health care workforce, which may furthermore encourage men to engage with primary and preventive health care.

Overall, retention within the College of Nursing northern sites has remained high. Since the program began, 73 students have been admitted. The retention rate between 2012 - 16 is 89%.

■ Congratulations to our Graduates!

In May, we celebrated the successful completion of the Bachelor of Science of Nursing degree for Kaylee-Ann Irving, Joanna Lariviere and Kristy Mirasty, with a Graduation Banquet at Eagle Point Resort. Ladawn Deschambeault, who graduated from the Prince Albert Campus, also participated in the celebration. Dr. Beth Horsburgh, College of Nursing's Interim Dean at the time, was in attendance to honour the grads. Congratulations to our newest alumni! We wish you continuing success as you begin your nursing careers.

(l to r) Kaylee-Ann Irving, Ladawn Deschambeault, Kristy Mirasty and Joanna Lariviere



Clinical Placements

Clinical and lab experiences are integral to the College of Nursing's curriculum and individual student development. These types of experiences provide students with an opportunity to connect theory to practice and to further enhance and develop their nursing skills and knowledge.

The following clinical experiences were provided for the northern nursing students in the 2017-18 academic year:

Year in Program	Course	# of Students	Location of Placement	Time Frame	Clinical Hours
2	NURS 202	11 students; 7 - La Ronge 4 - Ile-a-la-Crosse	La Ronge Hospital Long Term Care Unit Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority – St. Joseph's Hospital	Nov 28, 29 and Dec 2, 2017	24 hours
2	NURS 221	17 students; 12 - La Ronge 5 - Ile-a-la-Crosse	Prince Albert and Battleford – Medical Acute Care	May 22 – June 22, 2018	144 hours
3	NURS 333	7 students; 4 - La Ronge 3 - Ile-a-la-Crosse	Battleford – Medical Acute Care	Sept 25 – Nov 3, 2017	156 hours
3	NURS 331	8 students; 6 - La Ronge 2 - Ile-a-la-Crosse	Victoria Hospital, Prince Albert – Obstetrical Unit	May 31 – June 29, 2018	78 hours
3	NURS 331	8 students; 6 - La Ronge 2 - Ile-a-la-Crosse	Victoria Hospital, Prince Albert – Pediatric Unit	May 31 – June 29, 2018	78 hours
3	NURS 308	8 students; 6 - La Ronge 2 - Ile-a-la-Crosse	Victoria Hospital, Prince Albert	May 1 – May 25, 2018	156 hours
4	NURS 431	16 students; 10 - La Ronge 6 - Ile-a-la-Crosse	Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority – Buffalo Narrows Health Centre, Green Lake Health Centre, Ile-a-la-Crosse Public Health, Beauval Health Centre, La Loche Health Centre Lac La Ronge Indian Band – Public Health and Home Care – Jeannie Bird Clinic Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region Community Health and Home Care Bells Point Elementary School	Sept 11 – Nov 29, 2017	260 hours
4	NURS 450	16 students; 10 - La Ronge and 6 - Ile-a-la-Crosse	La Loche Health Centre, St. Joseph Hospital Acute Care – Ile-a-la-Crosse, Lloydminster Hospital, Meadow Lake Hospital, Battleford Union Hospital, Shellbrook Home Care, La Ronge Health Centre, Lac La Ronge Indian Band – Home Care – Jeannie Bird Clinic, Victoria Hospital – Prince Albert	Jan 8 – April 6, 2018	360 hours

■ Northern Nursing Students Honoured for Excellence

On March 2nd, 2017, Kristy Mirasty was awarded an Aboriginal Student Achievement Award to recognize her leadership and engagement in both the 2016 Innovative Learning Institute on Circumpolar Health, where she represented herself, the College of Nursing and her

community of Stanley Mission very well; and the November 2016 Indigenous Nurses Gala.

On November 19th, 2017 the College of Nursing honoured a number of students at our annual student awards ceremony. Among

this group of high achievers was Tina Shaw. Tina received the Elaine Barnhart Memorial Scholarship and the University of Saskatchewan Scholarship because of her excellent academic achievements.

Congratulations Kristy and Tina!



Kristy Mirasty



Tina Shaw

New Classroom Space in La Ronge

Classes for the La Ronge nursing program will be moving to the Northlands College Rock Campus in Mistasihk Place. The lab will continue to be located in Air Ronge, with plans to relocate to the new building in the near future.

■ Speed Nursing: A Fun, Fast Networking Event

You've heard of speed dating? Well this is Speed Nursing, an innovative College of Nursing event connecting nursing alumni and students in a unique way. This one-of-a-kind knowledge sharing approach involves alumni sharing their expertise with current nursing students. On March 13th, 2017, La Ronge students heard from five alumni on topics including Acute Care, Rural Nursing, Case Management, Diabetes Education, Tips from a New Nurse, Home Care and Public Health. Students have eight minutes to ask as many questions as possible, then a bell rings and they move to the next topic and expert. Students get the information they need about different careers in nursing, and alumni tell us they enjoy these mentoring moments.



Current nursing students in La Ronge hear from nursing alumna Janet McKenzie (BSN '16) during Speed Nursing event



(l to r) Randa Jawad-Trudel, Bente Norbye (The Arctic University of Norway (UiT)) and Shania Petit

■ Innovative Learning Institute on Circumpolar Health

Randa Jawad-Trudel and Shania Petit from the La Ronge Campus joined eight other northern nursing students from seven different post-secondary institutions and four Arctic states for the Innovative Learning Institute on Circumpolar Health (ILICH), held in northern Norway in Troms County. This was the third ILICH that northern nursing students have participated in (2015 was hosted in Yakutsk, Russia and 2016 was in northern Saskatchewan). The theme of this year's event was "Roots and Identity", and participants were encouraged to explore the notion of cultural awareness and

what it means when providing nursing care in rural and remote regions of the Circumpolar North.

Randa Jawad-Trudel feels grateful she was able to participate in the Institute. "It was very useful to have the opportunity to discuss the healthcare difficulties experienced in other isolated indigenous communities in the Circumpolar North. It gave Shania and I the chance to find out what challenges we have in common with the other students, but also how issues there have been remedied, with the hope that we can adapt the same solutions to

Northern Saskatchewan. It was a great way to form partnerships with future nurses from around the world who share a common goal of providing better health care to their Indigenous populations. It was wonderful to learn about the Sami people, their way of life and their history. The Sami people have a lot in common with Canadian Aboriginal peoples, such as being sent to boarding school and the attempt to assimilate them with the Norwegian culture. Northern Norway is absolutely beautiful."

K-12 Outreach



- On May 2, Tracy Gobeil and Pat Taciuk attended the La Ronge and Area Career Fair in La Ronge. Over 500 students attended from 13 schools. The students came from Montreal Lake, La Ronge, Stanley Mission, Reindeer Lake, Southend, Pinehouse, Sucker River, Hall Lake and Pelican Narrows.
- The College of Nursing co-sponsored and hosted a number of tours for the Northern Administrative Students Association (NASA) 5th Annual Exploration Conference on May 4, 2017, which sees high school students from across northern Saskatchewan visit various post-secondary campuses in Saskatoon.
- From May 8 to May 13, Aboriginal Nursing Advisor for Prince Albert and the North Tracy Gobeil, participated in the Keewatin Career Development Corporation's Athabasca Flying Career and Hands on Fair. The Northern remote communities of Wollaston Lake, Black Lake/Stoney Rapids and Fond du Lac were all part of the tour. Approximately 50 senior year students and another 150 middle year students were able to take part in this event. Hands on activities focused on vital signs and students worked together and independently to find their temperature, heart rate and respirations.

(l to r) Aboriginal Nursing Advisor Tracy Gobeil and Professional Academic Advisor Pat Taciuk

❖ New Faces

The College of Nursing has some new faces in its Leadership. Our new Dean, Dr. Huey-Ming Tzeng, began her position in September 2017. Dr. Tzeng is originally from Taiwan. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. She worked at the University

of Michigan as a Professor and Associate Nursing Director; at the Washington State University-Spokane as a Professor and Associate Dean, and as the Dean of the Tennessee Technological University Whitson-Hester School of Nursing. Dr. Tzeng visited students, staff and stakeholders in La Ronge on

October 30th and in Ile-a-la-Crosse on October 31st.

Dr. Mary Ellen Andrews has been appointed Acting Assistant Dean, Prince Albert & the North, effective January 2018. She replaces Dr. June Anonson. A Search Committee is seeking a permanent appointment to begin in July 2018.



Dean Tzeng tours La Ronge lab



Dean Tzeng meets with community stakeholders, staff and students in Ile-a-la-Crosse

■ Forum on Telehealth in Northern and Indigenous Communities

The College of Nursing organized a forum on October 5th, 2017 assessing telehealth use in northern and Indigenous communities and opportunities for expansion. Amongst the forum's presenters were Northern Inter Tribal Health Authority's (NITHA) Charles Bighead, Northern Medical Services Veronica McKinney, Montreal Lake Principal (now Lac La Ronge Director of Education) Simon Bird and Pelican Narrows resident Vanessa Linklater. Participants from Meadow Lake Tribal Council, Lac La Ronge Indian Band, NITHA and the Mamawetan Churchill River and Athabasca health authorities were also in attendance.

A report from the forum including recommendations and recordings of the presentations will be released winter 2018.



Forum participants discussing their use of telehealth

■ Graduate Education Opportunities

The College of Nursing's Master of Nursing program is offered online, making it more accessible for Registered Nurses in rural and remote communities to complete the requirements without leaving home or interrupting their present employment.

In order to enhance Aboriginal representation in health care administration, advanced practice, teaching and research, the College of Nursing has established a \$5,000 entrance award for all First

Nations, Métis and Inuit students accepted into any of our graduate programs [Master in Nursing (MN), Nurse Practitioner (MN-NP) and PhD]. The deadline for both the Master's (course-based & thesis-based) and PhD program is March 1st, and for the Master's (Nurse Practitioner) program it is April 1st. To discuss the graduate program application process and opportunities, please email nursing.advising@usask.ca.

Mentorship

The College of Nursing is once again organizing mentorships for fourth year students who will convocate in Spring 2018. If you are a Registered Nurse of Aboriginal descent, or have significant experience working in First Nations and Métis communities, and are interested in being a mentor, please contact aboriginal.mentorship@usask.ca or apply to be a mentor by March 3, 2018 via: <https://nursing.usask.ca/documents/aboriginal/Aboriginal-MentorRegistration.pdf>.

■ ■ **For more information, comments
or suggestions, please contact the
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