



# INNOVATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Programs

The introduction of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in the north has resulted in Northlands College and Nortep/Norpac offering the pre-professional year to approximately 70 students in four communities; Ile a la Crosse, Buffalo Narrows, Creighton, and La Ronge. These students will be able to use these courses towards a nursing degree or other university degrees.

In 2008, the College began delivering its Masters program using a distributed learning model. For the first time nurses could pursue a graduate degree in nursing without travelling or relocating to Saskatoon.

A new Post Graduate Specialty Certificate Nurse Practitioner option was implemented in 2009. This program offers distributed learning options which responds to the needs in the health care sector and students desire to learn where they live.

## Partnerships

The Interprofessional Network for Student Placement in Rural and Remote Environments (INSPIRE) project was a successful partnership initiative with St Joseph's Hospital in Estevan. Third year nursing students remained in Estevan for their clinical placements and took classes from our Regina site via videoconferencing. This partnership met the needs of the nursing students as well as the rural community.

The School Health Initiative with Nursing Education (SHINE) program was a partnership between the College of Nursing and an elementary community school in Saskatoon. Third year nursing students worked with teachers, students, and families within the school to promote health and address needs. Students developed skills and knowledge related to children's health while the school benefitted from health professionals on-site to deliver services to its students.

The Prince Albert Parkland Health Region enlisted the help of graduate nursing students from our P.A. site to assist in the evaluation of a project for dementia clients in long term care. The evaluation would determine if the project contributed to a positive therapeutic climate and would result in a recommendation on whether to seek additional funding. The project won a Saskatchewan Union of Nurses Innovators Award.

## Community

A relationship between the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, SaskTel, Regina Native Access Program to Nursing (NAPN) and one of our faculty was developed to provide support to countries from a global health perspective. This led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the College and Green Hope Clinic in Tanzania that will support health research and student learning, both undergraduate and graduate in Tanzania.

Nurses for Kids, an RBC funded project, has provided an opportunity for university faculty and students to establish numerous health initiatives targeted at nutrition, oral healthcare, sexual health, fitness, anti-tobacco and mental health for children and youth within the elementary and high school settings. These initiatives have involved a collaborative partnership among faculty and students in Nursing, Kinesiology, Dentistry, Education, Social Work, and Health Studies as well as the Regina and Saskatoon Catholic School Divisions.

## Interprofessional Education

College of Nursing faculty in the Nurse Practitioner program joined forces with students in the Drama Department of the University of Saskatchewan to provide educational opportunities for nurse practitioner students. Drama students learned how to portray clients with individual health challenges, and participated in the nurse practitioner students' Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCEs), as patients with varying health issues.

The College has begun to rely on the expertise of faculty in other disciplines to deliver non-nursing courses. This has resulted in negotiations with College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and College of Medicine to each teach two courses.

College faculty members provided leadership in two successful Interprofessional Education (IPE) projects in the area of pain management. These projects, held in Regina in 2007 and 2011, have involved over 100 students and faculty from a variety of health and social science disciplines from the University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina. The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR) also collaborated on the projects.



On behalf of the faculty and staff of the College of Nursing I am delighted to present this Achievement Record to you. It is our way of demonstrating the impact of support from our community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and partners in education and health.

Over the past four years, the College of Nursing has been committed to its Second Integrated Plan 2008-2012. The integrated planning cycles provide the university, colleges, and other campus units with strategic focus and direction toward our vision to be among the most distinguished universities in Canada and the world.

Toward an Engaged University was the theme of this planning cycle. The U of S has defined an 'engaged university' to mean a place where faculty, staff, and students work with each other in pursuit of common goals, where research focuses on critical issues and contributes to the public good and where partnerships on campus and beyond enrich our work. The College of Nursing set five key initiatives that exemplify this theme and moves the College towards its own goals for nursing education, research, and scholarly work.

The College of Nursing has experienced substantial growth and development during the second integrated planning cycle and I am proud of all that we have achieved. We have worked hard over the past four years to solidify ourselves as a nursing college that serves the province of Saskatchewan and beyond. We have met our goal for a new interprofessional, distributed Bachelor of Science in Nursing program which began in September 2011. Our Masters and PhD programs are enhanced and experiencing increased enrollment. Research and scholarship activity have intensified with new support and resources in place. Also, we have significantly expanded our complement of faculty and staff as an investment in people and knowledge.

Thank you for taking the time to reflect with us on what we have achieved over the past four years. We value the people and communities we serve and will continue to be responsive to the needs of Saskatchewan and beyond.

Lorna Butler

Professor and Dean, College of Nursing  
University of Saskatchewan







## MEASURING OUR PROGRESS on Five Initiatives

### 1. Provision of a suitable centralized home for the College

The College has been actively participating in the planning for the new Health Sciences building including playing significant roles in the development of the White Paper on Governance and the Capital Campaign plan.

It was recognized that while the health sciences at the university moves towards a more collaborative and interprofessional approach to academics, it is important for the College to understand and maintain its own identity. An Advancement Officer was hired in 2010 with the mandate to develop and implement a communications strategy to increase our reputation and to help establish a sense of place for the College, creating a competitive advantage in the recruitment and retention of students, faculty and staff.

The College recognized the need to operate consistently and cohesively across its three sites. Technology, such as web-based communication, including the use of individual webcams, was introduced to improve the communications among sites. The College has implemented innovative methods for course delivery and administrative work to create a more efficient and productive working environment for faculty and staff which also translates into a more learner-centered environment.

### 2. Develop a New Interprofessional, Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program at the University of Saskatchewan

The Notice of Intent to dissolve the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) resulted in a provincial review of nursing education spear headed by Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration (AEE&I) through the Saskatchewan Academic Health Sciences Network (SAHSN). The decision was to increase the number of seats to 690 and to divide these seats equally within a two provider model with the two providers being the University of Saskatchewan and a collaborative between SIAST and the University of Regina. Over the past four years, the College has engaged in the development of a non-direct entry four year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program that includes a pre-professional year of common health sciences courses. The first students entered into the pre-professional year in the fall of 2011, which will mean that the first students will enter the College in the fall of 2012.

### 3. Maintain and Sustain Existing and New Programs

The College established a Masters level Nurse Practitioner program during this planning cycle, which received preliminary approval from Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association (SRNA), the nursing regulatory agency for the province, in 2008.

The College of Nursing successfully expanded its Masters program and enrolled graduate students in Regina, Prince Albert and northern Saskatchewan. By the fall of 2012, the College will be in a position to be able to offer the majority of the Masters program to students in their home communities as part of the College's commitment to offering distributive learning.

The College had had a history of success with Special Case PhD students. During the Second Integrated Planning Cycle, we decided to formalize this process and in 2007 we enrolled the first students into our PhD program. The first of these students graduated from the program in 2011. The College currently has 12 PhD students.

### 4. Invest in our People and Knowledge

The College of Nursing has been highly successful in recruiting faculty on a local, national, and international level.

In 2010, the College achieved a full complement of faculty positions. Over the last two years the College has hired a total of 15 new faculty members.

The College was successful in building capacity for support to the College programs with an emphasis on the E-learning environment.

In the last decade the College more than tripled its complement of support staff.

### 5. Support Excellence in Scholarship

The College has developed a Global Health Initiatives Framework. Our goal is to advance global health through research, student and faculty exchange, and clinician development.

In support of the goal of the university to become more research intensive, additional resources have been put in place to increase our research activity across a broad range of health areas.



## ACHIEVEMENT RECORD 2008 -2012

[usask.ca/nursing](http://usask.ca/nursing)