Truman Nursing awarded $150,000 grant to add an Accelerated BSN Program

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Dr. Stephanie Powelson

Governor Jay Nixon visited Truman Sept. 20, 2012 to present a $150,000 grant to the Department of Nursing to add an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABS) program. The grant will provide Truman Nursing with the resources necessary to increase the number of graduates. Dr. Stephanie Powelson, chair of the nursing department, stated "Offering another route to a BSN degree will allow us to graduate 10-15 more students and will help in addressing the nursing shortage in Missouri and across the nation."

The ABS program is for individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree in another major, and who wish to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Plans include developing three online foundational courses to help students prepare for the Accelerated (second baccalaureate degree) BSN program, and to increase clinical sites and partnerships. Once pre-requisite courses are completed and the student is accepted into the ABS program, it will take approximately 15 months of study to complete the degree. The first cohort will begin nursing courses during Summer 2013.

The grant was a portion of nearly $1 million dollars awarded by the Missouri State Board of Nursing (MSBN) and the Missouri Department of Higher Education (DHE) this year. The grant is supported by funds collected by MSBN from nursing licensing fees. MSBN approved the department's request for expansion to add an accelerated BSN program contingent upon a site visit 30 days prior to the start of the program. The department previously received funding from Caring for Missourians, launched in 2009 to provide funds to Missouri's public institutions to educate larger numbers of students interested in health careers. This effort is designed to meet the growing needs for health care professionals across the state.

During his visit on campus, Governor Nixon was given a tour of the Nursing Department, and he visited with Truman nursing students and faculty.

Halloween 2012
Potions Class: Wizard Steve Hadwiger and Monkey Teak Nelson get in the spirit of Halloween. L-R: Hadwiger, Taylor Chambers '13 and Megan Howe '13 and Nelson prior to class.

Middle School Students Explore Future Careers
Jessica Baker '13 assists a middle school student in the Nursing Simulation Center as he listens to lung sounds on the manikin. The 7th and 8th grade students enjoyed the interactive nursing session, taking blood pressures, feeling pulses, and listening to lung sounds as they explored the profession of nursing.
News in Nursing

Greetings! We are enjoying some great fall weather – the color changes of the leaves have been spectacular this year. During October, we hosted an accreditation team of three nurses from southern states, and they wanted to take our lovely trees home with them. Their exit report was very positive with all four standards met. The final report from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) will be sent in late April 2013. Thanks to faculty, students, administration, and alumni for providing excellent outcomes in graduation, employment, NCLEX pass rates, service, and caring nurse scholars.

We appreciated a visit from Governor Jay Nixon to announce a nursing education grant of $150,000. President Paino and Governor Nixon praised the strengths of Truman's nursing program. The grant will be used to start an accelerated bachelor of science in nursing (ABSN) program. We plan to graduate 10-15 ABSN students in 15 months of study. These students will have earned a previous bachelor's degree and completed specified pre-requisite courses. If you are interested in more details, please see the nursing web site. The first cohort will start during Summer 2013. The response to the ABSN program has been encouraging. The faculty, staff, and students are diligently preparing another route to a BSN degree.

Homecoming was great fun. Thanks to faculty, staff, and alumni for their help with refreshments, nursing history, and tours of the department. We enjoyed visiting with alumni and listening to their plans for future events. The Nursing Class of 1998 discussed plans for a reunion in 2013. I hope other classes will also make plans to return to Truman. Please let us know if we can help.

The Rho Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) held an induction ceremony, luncheon, and keynote address in early October. Special thanks to our chapter's leaders, Melissa Holcomb, Teak Nelson, Kit Hadwiger, Angie Shuey, Susan Lambert, Cindy Carter, Pam Melvin, Shirley Riley, and others who have assisted with the chapter's growth.

Faculty and staff continue to expand the use of technology in the nursing simulation center (NSC). The "Caring for Missourians" funding was very helpful in providing equipment in the two nursing labs. Faculty, staff, and students appreciate and learn from building scenarios, recording patient care between students and manikins, and discussing how to improve patient care. I'd like to express my appreciation to Pam Melvin, as well as other faculty/staff, for their work with students in the NSC.

We are installing a flat screen monitor in the hall to share photos and updates from students and alumni. Please enjoy the remaining days of 2012, visit us, and stay in touch!

Best wishes,
Dr. Stephanie Powelson, Chair, Department of Nursing

Preceptors of the Year

Each year highly qualified registered nurses are selected to serve as role models, mentors, and supervisors for senior nursing students. These RN preceptors assist the faculty and students in meeting course objectives in selected clinical areas. Preceptors of the Year are selected by faculty and senior nursing students. Preceptors of the Year were recognized April 26, 2012 at the Capstones of Nursing Luncheon.

Community Preceptors of the Year 2011-2012: nurses Debbie Sommers, RN and Angie Dodd, RN for their work with students at the Lewis County Health Department.

Acute Care Preceptor of the Year 2011-2012: Sherry Calloway, RN for her work with students in the Emergency Department of Northeast Regional Medical Center.

ACUTE CARE PRECEPTOR OF THE YEAR: (L-R) Prof. Steve Hadwiger, Preceptor Sherry Calloway, RN (NRMC), and Amanda Klieathermes ‘12

TRUMAN COMMUNITY PRECEPTORS OF THE YEAR: (L-R) Elizabeth Coleman ‘12, Paige McCullough ‘12, Preceptor Debbie Sommers, RN; Kaitlyn Friedly ‘12, Preceptor Angie Dodd, RN; and Tammy Guilford ‘12.
Dr. Teak Nelson was among the nominees for the "5 Under 40" award recognizing young professionals under the age of 40 who have demonstrated dedication, excellence, and professional development within their career field while maintaining a strong commitment to the Kirksville community. The award is sponsored by Kirksville Young Professionals and KTVO.

Brenda Wheeler PhD(c) is working toward her PhD in Nursing Education at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. She completed the required coursework in May and comprehensive exams this past summer. She began work on her dissertation this fall. Wheeler is involved in the House Calls program, a collaborative interdisciplinary education offering between the Truman nursing, communication disorders, and health sciences students and A. T. Still University medical students. Wheeler has chosen interprofessional clinical education as her dissertation topic.

Rho Omega Induction


Rho Omega Scholarship Awarded

Kaitlyn Polley ’13 (left) is awarded the Rho Omega Scholarship by President Shirley Riley. This scholarship is awarded yearly to a Junior Truman Nursing Student based upon an essay application detailing a patient education plan for a chronic illness.

NEMO Nurse of the Year

Dr. Teak Nelson (left) presented Beth Schrage MSN, RN (right) with the “NEMO Nurse of the Year” award on April 26, 2012. Schrage, an Advanced Practice Nurse with the Northeast Missouri Health Council in Knox County received this recognition for her embodiment of excellence in the profession of nursing. Dr. Nelson is the Vice President of the Rho Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.
Student Life

(above) Truman Nursing students with Phyllis Whitlatch '83 with the Knox County Flu Clinic on Oct. 4, 2012, in Edicin, MO. L-R: Rebecca Abernathy '13, Whitlatch and Bethany Blatfle '13.

(top left) Kit Hadwiger oversees Andalee Arndt '15 and Hannah Moravec '15 as they practice taking blood pressure in the Nursing Simulation Center (NSC).

(left middle) Jessica Wehner '12 explains her research poster to Dr. Steve Hadwiger at the 12th Annual Capstones of Nursing on April 26, 2012.

(left below) Dr. Teak Nelson explains glucose testing to senior nursing students during "super lab". L-R: Nelson, Rebekah Hall '13, Courtney Oxandale '13, and Catherine Freup '13.

12th Annual Nursing Capstones

The 12th Annual Capstones of Nursing was held April 26, 2012. Capstones of Nursing is co-sponsored by Nursing Department and Rho Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society to promote nursing scholarship. Keynote speaker Dr. Patricia Porterfield, retired Dean, St. Charles Community College presented "Rwanda - A Nursing Perspective."

Rho Omega Chapter (STTI) hosted an awards luncheon which honored:

Community Preceptors of the Year: Debbie Sommers, RN and Angie Dodd, RN

Acute Care Preceptor of the Year: Sherry Calloway, RN

NEMO Nurse of the Year: Beth Schrage MSN, RN

Rho Omega Scholarship Recipient: Kaitlyn Polley '13

The luncheon concluded with a short business meeting and installation of officers.
Class of 2012


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