



Summer 2008 Department of Nursing Newsletter

WHAT'S NEW?

Construction of Clinical Nursing Resource Center

The Clinical Nursing Resource Center is under construction and scheduled for courses in January. Deconstruction of the northern half of the basement of Memorial hall began in July. This area housed a variety of services in the past: locker-room, the bookstore, and technology studies. We are looking forward to opening the Clinical Nursing Resource Center which will feature 5 exam-tables rooms, 5 hospital-bed rooms, a classroom, 3 seminar rooms, and an office. The classroom will have the option of viewing a simulation area where students will participate in scenarios that closely resemble clinical experiences. In the seminar rooms students will develop critical thinking skills that they will use for their professional nursing practice. Simulation is a key element to BSU's curriculum design. Simulation education utilizes computerized mannequins and multi-media applications to enhance student learning and allow students the opportunity to practice skill development in a simulated environment prior to interacting with an actual patient. This project will include the purchase of basic simulation lab materials, Sim Man mannequins as well as a simulated pregnant woman that can deliver a baby!

BSU NEWS-RELEASE: Accreditation-10 years

The nursing program in Bemidji State University's College of Social and Natural Sciences has received accreditation for 10 years from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the maximum amount that can be awarded to a program. The accreditation, which covers the Department of Nursing's baccalaureate tracks, was awarded during a vote of the CCNE Board of Commissioners in April and continues through June 30, 2018.

Officially recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a national accreditation agency, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) is an autonomous accrediting agency contributing to the improvement of the public's health. CCNE ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate and graduate education programs preparing effective nurses.

CCNE serves the public interest by assessing and identifying programs that engage in effective educational practices. As a voluntary, self-regulatory process, CCNE accreditation supports and encourages continuing self-assessment by nursing education programs and the continuing growth and improvement of collegiate professional education.

"The Department of Nursing faculty and staff members are honored to have been granted 10 years of national accreditation with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education," *Dr. Jeanine Gangeness*, chair of the Department of Nursing, said. "National accreditation means quality, across the board - in the faculty, curriculum, the community and the University.

"Grounded by the high standards established by Joelyn Scriba, Riki Scheela and Diane Rose, the originators of the program, the Department of Nursing is honored to take on the charge of maintaining and exceeding expectations established by the CCNE," Gangeness added. "We are proud to bring excellence in nursing education to the next generation of nurses in northern Minnesota and to our new four-year program."

Bemidji State's next accreditation visit from the CCNE is planned for the fall of 2017.

For more information about Bemidji State's nursing program, please contact the Department of Nursing at (218) 755-3860 or visit the program on the Web at <http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/nursing/>.



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BUILDING ON A STRONG HISTORY AND LOOKING FORWARD TO A BRIGHT FUTURE:

We interviewed a few of our students who have pursued the nursing field. We asked them a few questions and the following passages include their responses.



ANNA PARTHUN

Anna is a senior in the RN to BS track at BSU.

Q: *How did you decide on nursing? What influenced your decision to become an RN?*

I was actually one of those children who never thought that I would be a nurse. It was probably on the lowest end of my career choice scale as I grew up and thought about my future. It wasn't until my junior and senior years in high school, when I took the CNA course through the PSEO program that I gave nursing a second glance. I loved science and loved people, and knew I wanted to have a career where I could make a difference in the lives of other people. The more I studied in nursing, the more I realized it was the fulfillment of both of my ideals!

Q: *Why did you choose Bemidji State University for your education?*

The excellent working relationship of BSU with the previous colleges I attended for my LPN and RN (Northwest Tech and Northland) definitely influenced my decision. I knew my credits would transfer well and be accepted and the program I entered would give me just what I need without having to repeat courses. The location was also very convenient, within Bemidji, so I wouldn't have to move and could continue in my current RN position in Bemidji. Finally, the affordability of BSU and flexibility it provided to RN's working in the profession finalized my choice.

Q: *In your opinion, what is the best part of being in the nursing profession?*

The smiles you get from patients when they look at you with their eyes full of gratitude and simply say "Thank you.". Watching the little baby who had come in sick with pneumonia, now alert and giggling after receiving a round of IV antibiotics and oxygen during their hospitalization. Knowing that the intense juggling of communication, time management, physical and emotional care of patients, and the craziness of unexpected health condition changes is all worth it when you receive that smile and "thank you". You know that you are helping and serving people in their most vulnerable times be the advocate and educator in the midst of the flurry of healthcare management to see them through to recovery.

STEVE TOWLE An alumnus, Steve Towle, was interviewed and he shared his experiences and opinions.

Q: *How did you decide on nursing? What influenced your decision to become an RN?*

I decided on nursing for a career choice because I en-

joy helping people and the health care field is a stable one that offers a decent wage and fair benefits.

My aunt who is an RN influenced me in my decision to become an RN. I remember talking with her at Christmas time about her job and she stated to me that there was a need for more men in nursing and she explained all the different career choices that were available so I decided to go to school and I am very glad that I did. In fact at this moment I am attending school full time at Minneapolis School of Anesthesia to become a CRNA.

Q: *Why did you choose Bemidji State University for your education?*

Bemidji State came highly recommended from former students. I choose Bemidji State because they offered a quality education at an affordable price. The program was also very adult friendly so those of us who had to continue to work full time were able to do so. Bemidji State has some of the best instructors and to this day I still highly recommend Bemidji State to anyone that is looking to go back to school for their RN degree.

Q: *In your opinion, what is the best part of the nursing profession?*

The best thing is if you don't like the area you start off in you can always change without changing your degree. If you start in pediatrics and you don't find it to your liking, you can switch and try working in another area such as Rehab or Surgery, eventually you will find the area you love. PLUS nursing offers the opportunity for career advancement after you have gained some experience. I decided to go back to school to become a CRNA or a Nurse Practitioner. The opportunities seem endless. I LOVE IT!!!

RON BARDWELL

Ron is an alumnus ('04) from the RN to BS nursing program at BSU. He currently works as a Certified Nurse Anesthetist in Bemidji.

Q: *How did you decide on nursing? What influenced your decision to become an RN?*

I really don't know how I decided on nursing as a career. Probably the biggest reason that I chose to enter the nursing field was the availability of good paying jobs in this area. I had worked on the family farm growing up, and then in the construction field after I graduated from high school. I really wanted a job that was not affected by the weather, and that would allow me to be able to move around, not stationary at a desk all day. Nursing wasn't even on my list of careers growing up, but after looking at the wide variety of work that you can do as a nurse, it just seemed to be a great opportunity.



Q: *Why did you choose Bemidji State University for your education?*

I choose BSU because of the "step program" I think that is what they used to call it. I started as a CNA and worked at a long term care facility while I attended the LPN program. Then I was able to work as a LPN while I was in the ADN program. I needed to work full time while attending school, and I was able to gain valuable experience while I "climbed up the steps". I then attended BSU to complete my BSN because of the great curriculum and it offered the flexibility I needed to work and finish my degree.

Q: *In your opinion, what is the best part of the nursing profession?*

The best part of being in the nursing profession is all of the great people that I have the opportunity to work with and care for every day. It is a profession that is very rewarding because nurses really do make a difference in peoples lives every day, and patients really appreciate good nursing care.



ANDREW MACH

Andrew is a sophomore who plans to apply to be a part of the first group of 4-Year Track nursing students at BSU.

Q: *How did you decide on nursing? What influenced your decision to become an RN?*

During my senior year of high school I wanted to be a full-time firefighter. My first year of college I went to Hennepin Technical College and took some firefighting courses and also took the EMT course. During the EMT class I became very interested in everything medical and decided that is kind of what I wanted to get into. I then got onto my local ambulance service and really enjoy that also. I considered being a Paramedic but I changed my mind and decided to go to school to be an RN.

Q: *Why did you choose Bemidji State University for your education?*

I really like the smaller school atmosphere and when I came here for my college visit I really liked the campus. Also, when I heard of a new nursing program starting up I thought it would be my best opportunity to get the best and most updated education possible.

Q: *In your opinion, what is the best part of the nursing profession?*

I get to be around people all of the time which is something I really enjoy doing. I also feel like I am making a difference in people's lives. I also enjoy the security of knowing once I graduate from college there will be great jobs available and my options will be unlimited.