

# Professional Nursing

Bemidji State University / Northwest Technical College

Winter 2012 Newsletter

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Program at Bemidji State University*

## STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION



President Christine Bauer

The Student Nurses Association has been busy this fall hosting United Blood Drives on Sept. 13 and 14 and on Nov. 29. The group also has been working to support the Bemidji food shelf, collecting

non-perishable food items in the BSU residential halls on Oct. 19. The association also gathered to maintain the stretch of highway it adopted through the state's Adopt a Highway program. The students also held an association fundraiser and social at Bemidji's Diamond Point Park on Oct. 16.

For more information about the Student Nurses Association, contact faculty advisor Jennifer Atteberry at [jatteberry@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:jatteberry@bemidjistate.edu) or (218) 755-2529.

## Wagging in Clinical

BSU students got their wag on, as senior nursing students conducted a pet therapy day on the Oak Hall lawn. The project was conducted as a part of their Rural Populations Practicum. Three cats and three dogs were borrowed from the Beltrami County Humane Society for BSU students to play with. Many students in BSU's residence halls miss the daily interaction with their pets back home, and this activity has proven to be a popular stress reliever.



Junior nursing students were also busy this past month honing their vision screening skills during their family health practicum. Students conducted screenings at all six of Bemidji's public elementary schools as well as at St. Philips School. The nursing students learned a lot about the large-scale effort that is required for such events; they even got a little help from the elementary kids on getting caught up to speed on what is cool now.



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## School of Nursing

### PLANNING BEGINS

On Nov. 23, 2011, the nursing faculties and staffs from Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College began the work of unifying as a School of Nursing. The School of Nursing is planned for a July, 2012, launch after two years of studying models of nursing education, gathering ideas from faculty, alumni, and the advisory group, and identifying the future for nursing in the region. *The goal is to create a school that honors individuality in an empowering culture and delivers health care with quality above expectations.*



Jeanine Gangeness, Dept. Chair

#### Honoring Individuality:

Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College will come together as a school of nursing while retaining the unique educational missions of both institutions. BSU will continue to provide the baccalaureate nursing program while NTC will continue to provide nursing assistant, practical nursing, and associate registered nursing programs. Each student, faculty member, and support staff member brings a unique mix of talents, ideas, histories, and approaches to the school. We value the variety of programs currently offered and acknowledge that our separate histories will drive our shared future.

Faculty and staff at both institutions will retain their current contracts and seniority. Professional development will be grounded in individual strengths, measured with tools such as Strengthsfinder™ and StrengthsQuest™. Recognizing how these strengths support individual expertise creates an environment that honors individuality and ultimately creates a culture of empowerment.

#### Empowering Culture:

In an empowering culture:

- faculty members feel confident to be creative and to change based on best practices;
- students trust their educational experience to prepare them to be ethical, evidence-based care providers, and are instilled with the confidence to demand quality in their future work;

Faculty at both BSU and NTC were surveyed about their work. The faculty identified students as being at the center of their work, and their commitment to each other as extremely important. Empowered faculty, who in turn create empowered students, create graduates who will elevate the quality of healthcare delivery.

#### Delivering Healthcare With Quality Above Expectations:

At the School of Nursing, quality will be central. This quality will be affirmed through national accreditation – by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education for BSU and by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission for NTC. By assessing each part of our program and ensuring that our educational practices are effective, we are able to obtain and maintain national accreditation.

BSU will be surveying our students, graduates, and those who employ our graduates during the summer of 2012 to gauge our effectiveness. We will be submitting our mid-term report during the summer of 2013. NTC will begin its first self-study process by submitting a candidacy letter in the next two to four months. NTC plans to complete a visit and achieve national accreditation by 2015.

These are exciting times for our programs. These benchmarks for our students will increase their employment flexibility and improve their transfer experience as they pursue higher-level degrees.



# Committee Updates

## **IMPACT OF STUDENT ADMISSIONS / PROGRESSION**

Chair Jennifer Atteberry

**The Student Admissions Progressions and Concerns Committee has been busy this fall. The committee has:**

- admitted 120 RN-BS students who began this fall;
- admitted 53 students to the Four-Year Track who will begin nursing programming in the spring of 2013;
- reviewed student program outcomes and was pleased with the 88-percent board pass rate for the 2011 Four-Year Track cohort;
- launched the federal and state background check programs in fall 2011. This was done to comply with upcoming Board of Nursing requirements that all students taking NCLEX-RN be required to submit a federal background check with results evaluated by the board prior to the license being issued;
- reviewed and updated bylaws.

## **BSU CURRICULUM RETREAT**

Chair Nancy Hall

The BSU Curriculum Committee hosted a faculty retreat on Oct. 14 to review the RN-BS track and Four-Year Track. The committee and faculty members reviewed connections between student experiences and the curricular tracks and shared ideas about the future work of the committee.







# 2012 Gift

## **BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION**

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Year(s) of Graduation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed. Make check out to: *BSU Foundation, Department of Nursing*

Please charge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my  Mastercard  Visa  AMEX  Discover

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I am interested in making a substantial gift to the Department of Nursing in honor of the nursing care I have received or in appreciation of my nursing education to the BSU Foundation. Please contact me at the telephone number and/or e-mail address listed above regarding how to process that transaction.

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