Realize human potential through the power of nursing.
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Dear Reader: Thank you for taking time to review the Faculty of Nursing’s Annual Report for 2012-2013.

Establishing Canada’s newest Faculty of Nursing and the SCBScN has been made possible through the efforts of all members of our community—and I want to formally thank the faculty and support staff who are decidedly committed to our success. The Faculty of Nursing and its programs have also been unfailingly supported by all units at the University of Regina.

The Associate Deans have been diligent in manifesting strategic growth in the Faculty. Dr. Evans has managed our unprecedented growth in the SCBScN; she capably brought our acceleration option to fruition during the summer of 2013. This acceleration platform is integral to future programming options. Dr. Laurie Clune provided solid leadership in establishing the Master of Nursing program. Through an innovative partnership with our colleagues at SIAST, we will offer the Collaborative Nurse Practitioner Program (CNPP)—an on-line nurse practitioner program.

The Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Nursing Program (SCBScN) continues to grow; more than 1,000 undergraduate students will be registered in our flagship program as of September 2013. The SCBScN is delivered in Regina, Saskatoon, and Swift Current. The SCBScN is made possible through a dynamic and robust partnership with our colleagues in the Nursing Division at SIAST.

Blended teaching and learning approaches have been readily embraced by faculty, staff, and students. The Faculty of Nursing continues to provide leadership in this regard at the University of Regina.

The Faculty is also investing energy and effort into research and scholarship. We are steadfast in our commitment to build capacity and community. Faculty are engaged in the scholarship of discovery, integration, application, and teaching. We continue to engage in significant service-based contributions both within and external to the University of Regina.

Our students are demonstrating leadership and they are actively investing in their Faculty of Nursing.

It is in these nascent years of the Faculty of Nursing that much “heavy lifting” is required. I am indebted to all the members of the Faculty and the University community who have lent a hand, and as John Heywood (1497-1580) observed, “made light work.”
On January 3, 2013, I began an exciting new position at the University of Regina, Faculty of Nursing as Associate Dean of Graduate Programs and Research. Over the past seven months, I have had the opportunity to be a part of a historical event for nursing in Saskatchewan.

The Master of Nursing: Nurse Practitioner Program

The first, and the most thrilling opportunity I have been involved with since my arrival, is being a part of the committee which designed (and are in the process of implementing), the Master of Nursing, (Nurse Practitioner) program. Building on the merits of SIAST’s Primary Care Nurse Practitioner advanced certificate program, the committee – composed of nursing faculty and instructional designers from SIAST and the University Of Regina – have worked hard to craft an innovative master’s level program. The program, called the Collaborative Nurse Practitioner Program (CNPP), is the first collaboration between a college and university to provide graduate level nursing education in western Canada.

The Collaborative Nurse Practitioner Program (CNPP) offers a distinct approach to Canadian primary care nurse practitioner education. The theory courses are delivered via distance education over the Internet, and 702 hours of clinical experiences are provided in approved community settings close to the student’s home. Full-time students will be able to complete this 11 course degree in two years. Graduates of the program will be able to provide primary care nurse practitioner services to the people of Saskatchewan and beyond.

To date, the program has received approval from numerous U of R bodies: Faculty Council; Faculty of Graduate Studies Council; Executive of Council; and Senate. A similar approval process was successful at SIAST. Currently, the Collaborative Nurse Practitioner program development committee is preparing for the final review of the program by the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association this fall. We will be accepting our first students for admission to the CNPP in September 2014. Stay tuned for more news about the program!
The past year has been a busy one for the Faculty of Nursing undergraduate program and student services. The Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing (SCBScN) program, offered in collaboration with SIAST, admitted the second cohort of 345 students. While the first cohort was admitted on a first qualified/first admitted basis, the second cohort was a combination of first qualified/first admitted and competitive entry.

A distance site was set up in Swift Current with 8 seats. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed by the University of Regina, SIAST, Great Plains College and Cypress Health Region November 1, 2012. Eight students began the SCBScN program in Swift Current in September, 2013.

An acceleration option was implemented in the Spring/Summer semester. This option provides students who have completed their second year of nursing to begin third year courses in the Spring/Summer semester. Their program will continue in consecutive semesters, with program completion in August, 2014. A second acceleration option is under development which would see the first cohort of students in this option complete their program in December, 2014.

The student services area welcomed a number of new faces this year. January Hutchinson began in the position of Academic Program Coordinator and Marcina Hodgins joined the Student Services staff in June.
Our second year has come and gone and the Faculty of Nursing is taking shape and growing in so many great ways. The administrative team have worked hard and persistently to help make the Faculty successful through student services and advising as well as faculty support. They are vital to providing the best learning and teaching experience to our students. I would like to thank them for their passion and dedication.

As the Faculty continues to grow over the coming years, we will work to add the necessary services and facilities like simulation labs, online and distance course delivery, new programs and enhanced student and instructor services to support growing demand and needs as efficiently as possible.

Although the U of R – like most universities across Canada – is facing financial challenges, I’m confident our staff and faculty will work together in innovative ways that will make the U of R a destination of choice for nursing education. This is a goal that requires great commitment, one that we collectively envision. I am excited for what the future holds for this dynamic and essential Faculty.
Vision Statement

Realize human potential through the power of nursing.

Mission Statement

• Inspire a quest for knowledge through innovative teaching, critical thought, research, scholarship and practice.
• Accept responsibility and assume leadership to make a difference in the health and well-being of all members of society.
• Create respectful environments that foster personal growth and professional formation.
• Educate students for safe, ethical, relational and competent nursing practice.
• Generate and share nursing knowledge with the community.

Programs

Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing (SCBScN)
The SCBScN, offered in partnership with SIAST, is a practice-focused and student-centred program that develops leaders in health care. Students gain a wealth of practical hands-on experience spending many hours throughout the program developing skills and expertise through clinical lab work, simulation learning and clinical practice education in a variety of health care settings and organizations. The SCBScN provides 1,452 hours of scheduled clinical experience. We educate our students to be future-ready, equipped with critical thinking and interprofessional skills. They are information seekers and lifelong learners.

Collaborative Nurse Practitioner Program (CNPP)
The CNPP – a master’s program offered in partnership between the University of Regina and SIAST, was established in the fall of 2013. This online graduate program provides a unique education opportunity for nurses to develop nurse practitioner expertise in 11 courses through full- or part-time study. With 700 hours of clinic practice, graduates will meet the competencies necessary to practice as Nurse Practitioners and be eligible to write the national nurse practitioner examination.
Faculty Services

The Faculty of Nursing is committed to the success of its nursing students. A variety of student services have been established to foster their success. Our goal is to provide inspirational education, including a positive university experience.

Student Services
Our student services team accords priority to students. The team is the first point of contact for program selection, transfer credit, program information, academic advising, registration and graduation.

Academic Advising
Academic advisors further augment student support. Our advisors provide students with advice about their academic path, and work with students who experience program challenges.

Aboriginal Nursing Student Achievement Program - ANSAP
The ANSAP Program is a University of Regina-SIAST partnership in which Aboriginal students are given the best chance to succeed in the SCBScN program. ANSAP provides academic and cultural supports to students at the Regina and Saskatoon sites. Aboriginal Support Coordinators are present at the U of R, SIAST Wascana and SIAST Kelsey Campuses.

Nursing Skills Lab
Nursing students have hands-on experience in the skills lab at SIAST. Students can practice clinical techniques and skills in a simulated hospital room. This practice develops clinical competence and confidence in students prior to providing nursing care to patients. Recently, The Faculty of Nursing is in the process of establishing an ancillary skills lab on campus. The lab will be outfitted with four hospital beds, privacy curtains, bed tables and supplies. Mannequins permit students to engage in dressing changes, aseptic techniques (not contaminating the dressing field), starting IVs and administering muscular injections. The Faculty is in the process of hiring a full-time instructor to manage the skills lab.

Staff & Faculty

In April, 2011, the Acting Dean (Dr. Sheila Dresen) welcomed Dean david Gregory. At this time, there were two faculty (Dr. Urban and Dr. Wagner) and a temporary support staff person (Hally Leveque). As of December 2013, there are:

• 10 tenure track (professors)
• 5 tenure track (instructors)
• 4 term instructors
• 10 support staff
• 3 instructional designers (seconded to the faculty by the Flexible Learning Division)

In addition to Dean Gregory, Drs. Robin Evans and Laurie Clune serve as Associate Dean Undergraduate Programs and Graduate Programs respectively.
Our Students
Numbers, Successes & Highlights

2012-2013 Undergraduate Student Numbers

1,050
Total Number of SCBScN students

1,220
Number of SCBScN applicants

58
Number of Aboriginal students

444
Number of scholarships received by SCBScN students

$299,400
Value of scholarships received by SCBScN students

Nursing Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to our Circle of Scholar’s entrance award winners:
2012 recipients: Kalyssa Weisbrod and Janessa Fouillard
2013 recipients: Ricki Doyle and Nadia Boots
U of R Nursing Students Society makes positive impact on students and community

In 2012, a group of students established the University of Regina Nursing Students Society (URNSS) to create a social community and support network as well as to promote a high standard of nursing practice and values among students.

URNSS has been active organizing several events and activities for students as well as fundraising for local charities. From sports nights, to steak nights, to a semi formal mock wedding social, URNSS has put on well attended events to raise money for the society and foster interaction among nursing students.

To celebrate Valentine’s Day the group gave out cupcakes to students and faculty and raised donations for the Z99 Radiothon which donates all proceeds to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Regina General Hospital. URNSS also donated pizza to Souls Harbour Rescue Mission after a pizza lunch for first and second year students.

The society has also engaged in Faculty of Nursing events such as student orientation to create awareness about the society among new students and make them feel welcomed and supported by their peers. Executive members of URNSS have had the opportunity to attend the Canadian Nursing Association’s National Health Leadership conference with faculty members.

Erica Warriner, SCBScN student, talks nursing, balance, success and future.

Nursing is an amazing profession. It is grounded in science and it is essentially about people. I personally love how the connections of so many factors make up the whole health of each individual. The SCBScN program provides excellent learning opportunities in both the science element of nursing as well as emboldening students to be resolute in taking a holistic approach to caring for people.

The support of the instructors has been vital to my success thus far. I was honoured to be the recipient of the Nursing Faculty Memorial Award for Clinical Excellence in Year II. As a mature student striving to maintain balance between home and school, I have experienced such encouragement from instructors who understand, who have been there themselves and who maintain a dedication to the success of their students.

As I come closer to completing my degree and consider future options, I am becoming more interested in pediatrics since I am passionate about children and families, and I am excited to continue on my journey as I embrace my new role as a nurse.
Our faculty are highly motivated, active and demonstrate excellence in nursing education. Over the past year, many have achieved notable successes that showcase the strengths and talents of the Faculty of Nursing.

**ARTICLES OR ABSTRACTS IN REFEREED JOURNALS:**


McGovern, B., Lapum, J., **Clune, L.**, & Schindel Martin (2013). The theoretical framing of high-fidelity simulation in nursing with Carpenter’s patterns of knowing in nursing. *Journal of Nursing Education. 52*(1), 46–49. doi:10.3928/01484834-20121217-02


Donnelly, G., **Domm, L.** (2014). Conceptualizing an expanded role for RN’s. *Open Journal of Nursing. 4*, 74-84.


**BOOKS OR BOOK CHAPTERS:**


**Invited Presentations at Refereed Conferences:**

**Invited Guest Speaker:**

PAPERS IN REFEREED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:
Davies, S. (2013, May). iNurse, iTeach. Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association Annual Meeting, Saskatoon, SK
Davies, S. (2013, May). iNurse, iTeach: Canadian Nurses Informatics Association Meeting, Montreal, QC

POSTER PRESENTATIONS AT REFEREED CONFERENCES:
Domm, E. (2013). The discovery of new processes and practices to provide high quality nursing care to patient in critical care units. Presented at the Pacific Institute of Nursing Conference in Honolulu, HI
Wagner, J. (2012, October). We Knew Not What We Did: Spirit at Work Can Make a Difference. Resolve Conference, Regina, SK
Wagner, J. (2012, November). We Knew Not What We Did: Spirit at Work Can Make a Difference. Third International Conference on Violence in the Health Sector, Vancouver, BC

REVIEWS:
Donnelly, G. Sentinel Reviewer, McMaster Online Rating of Evidence, Health Information Research Unit, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Reviews, 5 in 2011. 5 in 2012, 5 in 2013.
Evans, R. Sentinel Reviewer, McMaster Online Rating of Evidence, Health Information Research Unit, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Reviews 2 in 2012; 1 in 2013.
Parent, M. (February 2013) Reviewer (Research Proposals), Canadian Nurse Foundation
Parent, M. (February 2013) Reviewer (Research Proposals), Sigma Theta Tau International
OTHER PAPERS:

EDITORSHIP:

REPORTS:

GRANTS:
Dr. Laurie Clune:

Shauna Davies:
iNurse, iTeach project (June 2012-October 2012) funded by Canada Health e-Health Unit and MITACS - Accelerate.

Dr. Elizabeth Domm:
Principal Investigator on a research team to understand and document processes and practices that Registered Nurses working in Critical Care Units embarked to improve, and the outcomes associated with their quality improvement efforts. Co-Principal Investigator on a research team to explore Saskatchewan RN’s Roles and Scope of Practice (completed 2012).

Dr. Glenn Donnelly:
Research Trust Fund University of Regina: Postoperative Experience of Individuals who have Gastric Band Surgery Practice Patterns of Advanced Practice Nurses in Saskatchewan with Dr. Mary Ellen Andrews, College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Florence Luhanga:
Principal Investigator with Dr. Linda Ferguson, College of Nursing University of Saskatchewan (Co-investigator) and Dr. David Gregory Faculty of Nursing, University of Regina (Co-Investigator) - The Traditional Clinical Teaching Model for Nursing Education in Saskatchewan: A Patient Safety Concern? Proposal submitted for SHRF Establishment.
Principal Investigator with Dr. Twyla Salm, Faculty of Education, and Dr. Randy Johner, Faculty of Social Work (Co-investigators) - Exploring the Issue of Failure to Fail Incompetent Students: A Multi-Disciplinary Project. Recipient of the President's Teaching and Learning Scholar Awards for 2013-2014.
Dr. Olive Yonge, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta (Principal Investigator), Dr. Florence Myrick, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta (Co-investigator), Dr. Vicki Foley, Faculty of Nursing, University of Prince Edward Island (Co-investigator), & Dr. Florence Luhanga, Faculty of Nursing, University of Regina (Co-investigator) - Understanding the Field Experience Relationship: From Digital Images to Digital Narratives. Submitted to the SSHRC Insight Grant. Proposal score 4A. Deemed fundable but not funded due to lack of funds.

Dr. Florence Myrick, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta (Principal Investigator), Wendy Caplan, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta (Co-investigator), Dr. Vicki Foley, Faculty of Nursing, University of Prince Edward Island (Co-investigator), Manal Kleib, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta (Co-investigator), Dr. Florence Luhanga, Faculty of Nursing, University of Regina (Co-investigator) & Dr. Pauline Paul, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta (Co-investigator) - Preceptorship and Mobile App Technology: Using just-in-time Knowledge to Teach for Patient Safety. Proposal submitted for CIHR grant - A Understanding the Field Experience Relationship: From Digital Images to Digital Narratives. Submitted to the SSHRC Insight Grant. Proposal score 4A. Deemed fundable but not funded due to lack of funds.

Dr. Michele Parent:
University of Regina, President’s Teaching and Learning Scholars’ Program - 2012. A study on aboriginal nursing education: Using indigenous knowledge to prepare students and faculty to learn and work with and for aboriginal people and communities.

Dr. Joan Wagner:
Exploring the Relationship between Spirit at Work and Workplace Outcomes for Home Care and Surgical Nurses - Principal Investigator, (First research project to pass harmonized ethics approval process for Saskatoon Health Region, Regina - Qu’Appelle Health Region and University of Regina); Metasynthesis of the literature on Spirit at Work and Spirituality in the Workplace. SHRCC Cohort Grant and a SSHRC General Research Grant Fund (President’s Fund) to assist with this metasynthesis of qualitative research literature.

Dr. Ann-Marie Urban:
University of Regina, President’s Fund $5000: Images and their influence in the recruitment of students to nursing programs.

HONOURS AND AWARDS:
Evans, R. (2012) Canadian Association of Perinatal and Women’s Health Nursing (CAPWHN) Excellence in Leadership Award
Evans, R. (2012) SRNA Helen Walker Award for Innovation in Nursing, as member of U of S, College of Nursing, Master of Nursing Team
Parent, M. (2012) Indigenous People Health Research Centre (IPHRC), New Investigator Award
Gregory, d. (2013) President’s Award for Service Excellence – University Spirit Award. This award is presented to recognize employees for their significant contribution to the University of Regina itself, or for demonstrating outstanding service to the community-at-large.

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION:
Dr. Laurie Clune:
Thesis Committees:
Sophie Pomerleau, Co-supervisor, An explication of the work of patient representatives on hospital committees: An Institutional Ethnography. McGill University, Doctoral program in Nursing, 2012 – present
Committee Member:
Deena Arthur, Women Past Menopause: learning from the voice of experience, Master’s of Arts in Gerontology Thesis, University of Regina, 2013-present
External Examiner:
Xinfeng Jia – PhD Defense-Faculty of Engineering & Applied Science, Enhanced solvent vapor extraction processes in thin heavy oil reservoirs, Chair, University of Regina, 2013
Ahmed Alhijil-Master’s Thesis-Police Studies, Determining the predictors of misconduct in Canadian prisons, Chair, University of Regina, 2013
Cynthia Nelson-Master’s Thesis-Faculty of Education-A description of monolingual English teacher’s appreciations of student language repertoires in Hutterian Colony schools, Chair, University of Regina, 2013

Dr. Robin Evans:
Thesis Committees:
Gabriel, A. - Masters of Nursing student, Quality Healthcare form the Nurses’ Perspective. College of Graduate Studies & Research, University of Saskatchewan, 2009 - present

Dr. David Gregory:
Thesis Committees:
Sheila MacRae - Supervisor Master’s Thesis Exemplary Nursing Care within the Context of Stressed Workplace, University of Lethbridge, 2009 - 2012
Adele Vukic, PhD Student School of Nursing, Dalhousie University; Co-Supervisor along with Dr. Ruth Martin Misener. The Mental Health Needs of M’kmaq Youth. (In Progress)
Ruksana Rashid, PhD Student, The Use of Humour in Palliative Care. Faculty of Medicine, Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary; Co-Supervisor along with Dr. Kathryn King-Shire. (2009-present)
Brenda Green, PhD Student, Interdisciplinary PhD, University of Regina, Committee member. (In Progress)

External Examiner:
2012: David Wright, PhD, Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Nursing, University of Ottawa. Delirium and the Good Death: An Ethnography of Hospice Care. Supervisor: Dr. Susan Brajtman
2012: Alanna Baldwin, PhD, Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba. Exploring the Interactional Determinants of Collaboration on Inter-professional Practice in Community-Based Geriatric Care. Supervisor: Dr. John Wiens.

Dr. Ann-Marie Urban:
Thesis Committees:
Karen Juckes-Doctoral thesis-Critical views of pediatric pain; participatory action research with health and social science learners in an acute care clinical setting. Faculty of Education (In progress).
Danielle Schmidt - Master’s thesis-Sexual health education. Faculty of Kinesiology & Health Studies, University of Regina. (In progress).

External Examiner:
Michelle Gagnon-Master’s Thesis- Development and Evaluation of a Pain Assessment Training Program for Long-Term Care Staff. Department of Psychology - University of Regina. 2012.
Scholar-in-Residence Experiences New & Growing Faculty First-Hand

Professor Heather Jessup-Falcioni, Associate Professor at Laurentian University School of Nursing, came to Regina during the Fall 2012 semester as the first Scholar in Residence in the Faculty of Nursing.

“I was very interested in visiting another Faculty of Nursing in Canada,” says Heather. Her curiosity in other nursing faculties and a prime opportunity during her sabbatical led to an invitation from Dr. David Gregory, a long-time colleague, who heads the Faculty. “We graduated together having completed our MN from the University of Manitoba in 1986.” Since then, they have kept in touch over their progressive careers.

Heather had nothing but positive things to say about the Faculty of Nursing’s staff and faculty she had the pleasure of working with. “I felt very welcome by everyone,” says Heather. “If I had to select one thing I enjoyed most, I would say that it was speaking one on one with the nursing faculty, staff and the Dean.”

She was also impressed by the spirit and engagement of the faculty and staff. “I found each person I spoke with to be quite enthusiastic about what they were doing and also about how committed they were in working together as a team under the skillful support of their Dean and mentor.”

Heather accomplished a great deal during her one month residency. She participated in a number of discussions with faculty regarding research projects, nursing curriculum organization and content, collaborative programs and approaches to collaboration, distance learning, participative learning, workplace violence, pedagogy, and student clinical placements.

Distance learning and technology are important aspects of the Faculty’s program delivery and learning experience, and as such Heather spent time working with staff and faculty in these key areas. She observed a collaborative nursing course delivery. “Nursing students in Saskatoon were connected with the class lecture with student peers located at the University of Regina campus,” explains Heather. She also attended and observed a flexible learning session where online and distance nursing course delivery were discussed.

Heather was also able to fit in some class facilitation. “I participated in a social work class facilitated by Professor Randy Johner. I facilitated a discussion about reflective practice in nursing, interprofessional collaboration, plus the social determinants of health,” adding, “this class was held not just in the classroom, but also with students located outside Regina at several sites connected via flexible learning technology.”

Although Heather’s time came and went quickly, her residency gave her new knowledge and perspectives to take back to Laurentian University. “I have already been able to utilize some of the benefit of new knowledge regarding different approaches to common content matter such as reflective practice and student clinical placement options,” adding, “I think that the whole experience supported many of my teaching/learning approaches with students and that is reassuring.”

Heather left with a positive view of this new and growing Faculty. “I am very impressed with the University of Regina and in particular the Faculty of Nursing. The University is very well organized, aesthetically attractive, and very supportive to its faculty, staff and students. Everyone that I spoke with, including students, were very happy to be part of the University. Their demonstration of contentment certainly leaves visitors with a very positive feeling. I would highly recommend the University of Regina to any scholars looking for a visiting scholar experience.”
Dr. Ann-Marie Urban, Assistant Professor, is focused on the future of nursing.

Dr. Urban’s clinical experience in medical and mental health nursing has provided her with the knowledge to teach a variety of courses in the SCBScN program. Since its inception, she has taught CNUR 100 Practice Education: Community partnerships; CNUR 106 Health and Education Across the Lifespan; CNUR 203 Alterations in Health and Advanced Assessment; and is currently teaching CNUR 202 Pharmacology; 204 Alterations in Health and Advanced Assessment II; and 304 Theory and Practice Education: Mental Health Partnerships. She creates scenarios that assist students in linking theory to practice while fostering their clinical decision-making skills. She has also assisted in developing a number of undergraduate courses with her SIAST colleagues.

Ann-Marie’s research area includes understanding nurses and their work in the acute care hospital setting. She has explored the topics of the nurse’s image, the perspectives of students entering nursing and the historical and contemporary influences surrounding nurses and their work. Ann-Marie considers herself a nurse advocate. Her other interests include health and well-being; she has given many presentations in this area and has volunteered as a fitness instructor at the YMCA for over 20 years.

Focus-Future of Nursing

It is an exciting time for nursing. “As I say to students, the options and the impact they will make are endless. While hospitals still employ the largest number of registered nurses, the role of RNs is expanding and we are moving into non-traditional areas (rural, community, primary health care, private sector).” Ann-Marie adds, “Today, RNs advocate and collaborate with their clients in making evidence-informed care decisions. Our program provides nursing students with a range of experiences in urban, community and rural settings. The demand for RNs will continue to grow as their role evolves. My nursing career has provided me with many opportunities. I feel privileged to be at a point where I can share my experiences with those who will someday be looking after my family, my friends and me.”
MOA brings nursing program to Swift Current

Current and prospective nursing students now have the opportunity to complete the SCBScN program in Swift Current starting fall 2013. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed with Great Plains College, Cypress Health Region, SIAST and the U of R in 2012.

“We are extremely happy about this program offering and the work done to date with our partners,” said Great Plains College President David Keast. “We look forward to strengthening our relationships with SIAST, University of Regina and Cypress Health Region and to ultimately producing graduates that will help meet the pressing needs of health care felt throughout the region.”

The program involves a blend of face-to-face, online and videoconferenced courses requiring a great deal of technical development and ongoing support. A large team of staff from each of the four partner institutions has been diligently working over the past year and a half to have the program ready to go in September for eight on-site students. In addition to the technical development, Great Plains College has made modifications to their labs and classrooms to support the program on-site and the Cypress Health Region is preparing to bring nursing students into their health facilities for clinicals and other hands-on education.

The benefits of the program are far reaching for the Swift Current area. “All of the partners are really excited about this initiative where everyone benefits,” says Dr. Netha Dyck, Dean of Nursing at SIAST. Students, in particular, will benefit from having the opportunity to receive their education in their hometown. Great Plains College benefits by expanding its range of educational programming within the Swift Current area. The program in Swift Current is an effective registered nurse recruitment and retention strategy for the Cypress Health Region. Students who complete their education in the community are more likely to remain there when they graduate. As Dr. Gregory observes, “The Swift Current initiative extends the reach of the University of Regina, as well as the SCBScN and the Nursing Division to south western Saskatchewan.

The new initiative is proving to be valuable and beneficial to the region as the program had more qualified applicants than available seats. This validates how in demand the nursing program is in smaller communities around Saskatchewan and that there’s a real need to bring programs to those areas.

“Offering the SCBScN in Swift Current demonstrates that we’re a provincial university,” said University of Regina President Vianne Timmons. “We’re pleased to be part of a community committed to offering education with our partners SIAST, Great Plains College and the Cypress Health Region. The province will benefit from our highly skilled and educated nursing professionals for years to come.”
SCBScN program reaches beyond borders through internationalization committee

The Faculty of Nursing and SIAST Nursing Division have taken steps to expand abroad through an internationalization committee. It’s mandate is to build capacity for the advancement of international nursing education within the SCBScN program.

The committee will promote and facilitate internationalization of the SCBScN through:

- Maintaining awareness of the current literature concerning international standards for nursing and nursing education.
- Build partnerships with organizational services to engage in environmental scanning and incorporate trends and opportunities for international education in the program.
- Identify and review opportunities and make recommendations for the delivery of international education or participation in international clinical practice experiences.
- Evaluate the outcome and impact of international nursing education.
- Participate in knowledge translation.
- Comply with best practices and standards for international nursing education.

Over the past year, the internationalization committee has focused on two key areas: study and clinical placements abroad, and English language proficiency among international and immigrant nursing students.

Over the past year, the committee has developed opportunities for nursing students to travel abroad and gain perspectives and experience of the profession on an international level. A Memorandum of Understanding between the U of R and University of Malawi was signed, paving the way for a group of students to travel to Malawi for a three-week clinical placement in 2014 and receive three credits for the study tour. In addition, two Malawi students will study at the U of R for two semesters. Six third-year students and SIAST one faculty member will travel to Colima, Mexico in February 2014 for six-week pediatric clinical placements. Another partnership is in the works with the University of Indonesia.

The committee consists of one faculty member from the U of R, SIAST Kelsey and SIAST Wascana as well as one clinical placement coordinator and curriculum coordinator.