

## DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Nursing was present on the FIU campus from 1972 to 1978 when a RN-BSN degree was offered through the School of Public Affairs and Services. In 1982 the School of Nursing was established on Biscayne Bay Campus (BBC) as an upper division unit through start-up funds provided by nine Miami hospitals. These institutions were concerned about the acute nursing shortage and were interested in providing baccalaureate education for qualified men and women who could assume beginning leadership positions in health care in the rapidly growing southeast Florida area.

During 1997, the School merged with the College of Health to create a new academic unit, the College of Health Sciences. The College of Health Sciences included the School of Nursing and the Departments of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics and Nutrition, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Public Health, Health Information Management, and Speech-Language Pathology. The rationale for the merger was to enhance one of the University's strategic themes, Health, through the consolidation of the health professions programs and development of interdisciplinary education and research.

During 1999, the merger of the College of Health Sciences with another academic unit, the College of Urban and Public Affairs, gave rise to a new college, the College of Health and Urban Affairs (CHUA). CHUA included four schools: School of Nursing; School of Health Sciences; School of Social Work, Policy and Management; and Stempel School of Public Health. The purpose of the restructuring was to consolidate the health related fields in one college and to enhance interdisciplinary education and research in these areas. Dr. Ronald Berkman was appointed Executive Dean of the College and Dr. Divina Grossman was appointed Dean of the School of Nursing.

In December 2004, the School of Nursing joined its sister schools in CHUA by relocating from the BBC to a newly constructed Health and Life Sciences II building at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus (MMC), a distance of approximately 20 miles. The move to the MMC was part of an overall strategy to locate nursing with other health related units in the context of the proposed medical school and the development of the academic health sciences complex. The new building provided nursing classrooms, teaching laboratories, offices, and research space. To provide for expansion, the School retained offices, classrooms and laboratories at the BBC.

On October 1, 2006 the School of Nursing was transformed to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) when CHUA was disaggregated into three (3) autonomous units: the CNHS, the College of Social Work, Justice, and Public Affairs, and the Stempel School of Public Health (SSPH). The CNHS included Nursing and the Departments of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Health Information Management, Health Sciences, Communication Sciences and Disorders, and Athletic

Training. The disaggregation provided autonomy for the educational units as they sought accreditation or re-accreditation from their professional agencies and laid the foundation for the future health sciences complex. Dr. Divina Grossman was appointed Dean of the CNHS and reported to the Provost.

In August 2006, as part of FIU's Strategic Initiatives, a nursing program was re-established at the BBC. In December 2006, University administrators announced that a new CNHS building would be erected on the MMC. The \$34 million 113,000 sq. ft. building would house the College's combined disciplines that were scattered throughout two buildings and rapidly outgrowing them. The CNHS building (AHC 3), completed in December 2009, became part of the academic health sciences complex envisioned at the MMC.

In 2009, the University-wide budget cutting process required a feasibility review of all CNHS programs and tracks. Two College departments (Health Information Management and Health Sciences) were phased out as a result of the review. CNHS expansion re-occurred in 2011 with the assimilation of Health Services Administration, a baccalaureate level program

previously housed in the Stempel College of Public Health. In February 2010, CNHS Dean Divina Grossman resigned; Dr. Sharon Pontious was appointed Interim Dean until July 1, 2011 when Dr. Ora Strickland was appointed CNHS Dean.

The College's undergraduate and graduate nursing programs are fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (initial accreditation occurred in 2008), the Council on Accreditation (COA) of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (re-accreditation occurred in 2010), and are approved by the Florida Board of Nursing (re-approval occurred in 2011). The nursing unit holds institutional memberships in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the National League for Nursing (NLN), the Florida Nurses Association (FNA), the Nursing Shortage Consortium of South Florida, and the South Florida Hospital and Health Care Association. Nursing degree programs currently offered by the College are a bachelor's degree in nursing, a master's degree in nursing, and a doctoral degree in nursing. A post-master's degree, the Doctor of Nursing Practice, was implemented in January, 2012.

#### Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program was approved in 1982 by the Board of Regents of the State University System. Upon completion of the BSN program, the basic (generic) student graduate is eligible to become licensed as a registered nurse. The nursing unit also offers a RN-BSN completion track. Graduates of the BSN program are eligible for master's level studies. In addition to the generic BSN program, the nursing unit offers a track for foreign-educated physicians (FEPs) to complete the BSN. The FEP-BSN track, the first of its kind in the nation, enables foreign-educated physicians who are unemployed or underemployed, to complete a BSN. In 2010 the FEP-BSN track was transformed to an accelerated combined BSN/MSN track; FEP students who qualify for admission to the MSN program continue into the nurse practitioner specialty tracks; students not admitted to the MSN program complete the BSN degree.

#### Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program was approved by the Board of Regents in 1992. The MSN program offers nurse practitioner specialty tracks in Advanced Adult Health Nursing, Advanced Child Health Nursing, Advanced Family Health Nursing, and Anesthesiology Nursing. Two specialty tracks (Advanced Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing and Nursing Administration) are under moratorium for admissions because of low enrollments. Graduates of the program are qualified to apply for certification examinations in their specialty areas. Nurse practitioner graduates who are nationally certified can obtain advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) certification through the Florida Board of Nursing. Graduates of the MSN program are eligible for doctoral level studies.

#### Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program was approved for implementation by the FIU Board of Trustees and Florida Board of Governors in 2010. The DNP program is a post-masters plan of study for the registered nurse with specialty preparation in advanced clinical nursing practice (nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives). DNP graduates exit the program with advanced skills and competency in 1) analyzing, designing, implementing, managing, and evaluating health care practice, policy, and delivery systems; 2) facilitating the application and integration of research into clinical practice using innovative approaches across multiple settings to improve health care, patient outcomes, and health care systems; and 3) preparing to assume leadership roles in practice, education, and management.

#### Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD)

The Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) program was approved by the Florida Board of Governors in 2003. The program's purpose is to develop individuals who will be leaders and educators in generating and applying the science needed to guide

nursing practice. Graduates have the knowledge and skills to conduct research in the health care field, and direct and guide application of other evidence-based health care findings to improve the health of people from diverse cultures and underserved populations. In 2009 a BSN-PhD track was added for students who demonstrate outstanding academic accomplishment in their undergraduate courses. The BSN-PhD track builds on student's nursing knowledge and skills at the baccalaureate level, includes master's level courses to prepare students for advanced practice roles, and provides the foundation for students to engage in a program of intellectual inquiry at the doctoral level.

### BSN to PhD

The BSN-PhD program is designed to prepare its graduates for leadership roles and research careers in academia, the health care industry, and government and private organizations focused on health care. The program purpose is to develop individuals who will be leaders in generating and applying the science needed to guide nursing practice, and who have the knowledge and skills to direct and guide application of other evidence-based health care findings to improve the health of people from diverse cultures. Students in the program will pursue individualized courses of study under the mentorship of research active faculty. A major program emphasis is the preparation of PhD educated minority nursing leaders and focused research on health issues for minority and underserved populations.