

RN to BSN

A newsletter from
THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

AT SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

From the desk of:

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Celebration at SMSU

Welcome to the Department of Nursing at Southwest Minnesota State University! This year, the Department of Nursing celebrates the first graduates of the RN to BSN Nursing Program, with our upcoming commencement ceremony on May 9, 2015. It is with pride that we watch our graduates practice the art and science of nursing, reflecting a cultural, ethical and compassionate presence as they serve with excellence in a diverse and ever-changing society. This truly meets the mission of SMSU and the RN to BSN Nursing Program.

SMSU Nursing Pin

The first SMSU nursing pin ceremony will be held on May 9, 2015. The nursing pin (pictured above) is awarded upon completion of the SMSU RN to BSN Nursing Program. It has a unique design, bearing the Southwest Minnesota State University Seal. This nursing pin is a proud symbol of the traditions shared by nurses across the country. It is truly an honor to present the first SMSU RN to BSN nursing students with their SMSU nursing pin this spring.



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RN to BSN Clinical Practicum

Within the RN to BSN Nursing Program, nursing students have the opportunity to integrate into the baccalaureate nursing role in a leadership and public/community health setting through the Clinical Practicum course. This course is designed with a one-to-one ratio, so each student has a nurse preceptor for the duration of the community health clinical experience, as well as the leadership experience. This leads to the maturation of the nursing student into the role of the BSN nurse. The preceptor is a role model, educator, and facilitator for the SMSU nursing students. This spring, 16 local and regional healthcare agencies partnered with the RN to BSN Nursing Program to provide preceptors for nursing students in a variety of settings. This learning opportunity provides tremendous benefits to both the healthcare agencies and the nursing students, impacting southwest Minnesota and the wider world.



Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship

SMSU is pleased to announce the *Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship*, which has been established through an Avera Marshall donation to the SMSU Foundation. This \$1000 scholarship has been created to encourage nurses in the region to build upon existing knowledge and skills in order to advance their education. The scholarship will be awarded to a nursing major with a demonstrated financial need who is a resident of southwest Minnesota. The SMSU RN to BSN Nursing Program is grateful for generous donations, such as the *Avera Marshall Nursing Scholarship*, to support students enrolled in our Nursing Program.



RN to BSN Applications

The SMSU RN to BSN Nursing Program continues to admit nursing students every fall and spring semester. We are still accepting applications for Fall 2015. Information is available at <http://www.smsu.edu/academics/programs/rntobsn/>

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Mark Your Calendar!

- May 9 Nursing Pinning Ceremony
- May 9 Commencement
- May 26 Summer session begins
- Aug 20-23 Gold Rush Days
- Aug 21 Convocation
- Aug 24 Fall session begins
- Sept 26 Homecoming
- Oct 15-16 Mustang Days
- Dec 2 Undergraduate Research Conference

May 6-12 is National Nurses Week. Join us in celebrating with the nurses in your lives and in your communities.

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. -

[Leo Buscaglia.](#)