Message from the Associate Dean, RN-BSN Program

Linda Washington, Ph.D., EJD, NPC-LHCRM

The BSN Program is on the move in South Florida, the US and across International borders.

In South Florida the BSN students are impacting the lives of our military men and women and our most vulnerable populations, women and children, the elderly, disabled populations and the homeless through our Community and College-wide programs, health fairs and collection drives held this past year.

In the US, our BSN honor students represented Broward College at the at the "Biennial Convention of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Nursing Organization". STTI and faculty delivered several presentations highlighting the success of our Academic Service Learning program and our successful partnerships with Hospice and Homeless agencies in Philadelphia, Puerto Rico, Arizona, and Hawaii.

On the international scene, eleven BSN Community Health students traveled to Guayaquil, Ecuador and provided healthcare screenings to over 340 children in some of the most underserved areas in Guayaquil Province.

The BSN program continues to align with our National Healthcare Agenda and addresses the impact of the nursing shortage on patient care outcomes. The research shows that “moving to a nurse workforce in which a higher proportion of staff nurses have at least a baccalaureate-level education would result in substantially fewer adverse outcomes for patients” (Friese, 2008, Aiken, 2003, IOM, 2010).

Upcoming Events

- RN Student Day Conference – Wednesday, November 5, 2014
- Health Fairs: Central Campus – Saturday, November 15; North & South – TBA
- Graduation Luncheon – Wednesday, December 10, 2014
- Honor Society Induction Ceremony - Wednesday, December 10, 2014
- Ecuador Study Abroad – February 28 - March 7, 2015
Ecuador: A Tu Salud Academic Service-Learning and Community Health Nursing - Spring Break 2014

Broward college’s baccalaureate nursing students embarked on an amazing journey to Guayaquil, Ecuador during spring break. Students screened over 300 residents and treated over 200 of the most indigent groups in Guayaquil. The purpose of the trip was to expose nursing students to International Service-Learning during their Community Health Nursing course. The Ecuador trip was sponsored by Broward College’s International Study Abroad Program. Students also participated in a Learning Community collaborative project during this trip. The Ecuador project allowed the nursing students to study Spanish for healthcare providers. Before embarking upon the Ecuador trip students practiced their Spanish under the tutelage of Professor Sahagun, while they performed healthcare screenings and referrals for vision, hearing, and nutrition.

In partnership with Broward College’s Center for American Education Guayaquil, Ecuador, under the direction of Dr. Stanley Whitman, President, this international service learning project was led by Dr. Linda Washington-Brown, Associate Dean of the RN-BSN Program and Professor Claudia Sahagun, Spanish instructor for Health care providers, the college was able to support our nursing students in a global environment. Study abroad is one of the “best practices” strategies to strengthen the capacity of the international health care workforce and to address the world health organization (WHO’s) global agenda.

The goal of the project was to promote academic enhancement, personal growth, and civic learning in an international setting; provide health care screening and education to underserved and unserved populations in Guayaquil, Ecuador; immerse students in global health care practices, as well as academic service-learning projects, both locally and internationally; and to develop and enhance student global cultural competences. We accomplished our goals.

By the end of our experience in Guayaquil, the students experienced doing something meaningful on an international level. Working with scarce supplies, the students treated head lice, skin, ears, and eye infections; made referrals to local clinics and hospitals, performed high level nursing interventions that included wound care for diabetic ulcers, starting intravenous solutions for malnourished patients, conducting electrocardiograms, and assisting with female and pediatric exams.

The students worked in groups of threes to cover all screening areas. We even had a data collector who recorded all patient visits, treatments, referrals, and returns during our week-long visit. Students were immersed into the Ecuadorian, feasted on Ecuadorian foods, and toured the Andes mountains. The people were friendly and received us with open arms. The nursing students are already planning a return trip to Guayas Province after graduation in June.
Local Community Involvement

RN-BSN students are actively involved in community and college wide activities. Students participate in Community Health Fairs at Broward College, the homeless shelters, Ronald McDonald House, and volunteer services at various community agencies.
RN Student Conference Day 2013

On November 8, 2013, the RN-BSN Program hosted its annual RN Student Day Conference. The conference theme was “Honoring Our American Veterans” The Forum highlighted Health, Economics and Education. Those who risk their lives to preserve our freedom deserve honor and respect during this Veteran’s Day Celebration, especially nurses serving in the Armed Forces. As nurses, we have a duty to provide individualized care to veterans and their families grounded in evidence-based practices, as well as to demonstrate sensitivity as knowledgeable caregivers.

The purpose of this conference was (1) to show our appreciation to veterans for their service to America (2) to increase public awareness and knowledge of service related illness and management approaches to these illnesses.

BSN Honor Society Induction Ceremony

The BSN Honor Society conducted its first induction ceremony on Wednesday, November 19, 2013. There were 33 inductees that continue to uphold the Sigma Theta Tau bylaws of maintaining above a 3.0 cumulative GPA and meets academic integrity.

RN-BSN Honor Society
Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

BSN Honor Society Student Requirements:
• Completion of 12 credit hours at current school
• Completion of 1/2 of nursing curriculum;
• Achievement of academic excellence (at schools where a 4.0 grade point average system is used, this equates to a 3.0 or higher);
• Rank in the upper 35th percentile of graduating class; and
• Meet the expectation of academic integrity.

APPLY NOW!
Graduation Highlights

In December 2013, the BSN Program graduated its fifth student cohort of 55 graduates. To date, the RN-BSN Program has graduated over 183 highly qualified BSN graduates.

Research has shown that registered nurses who obtain a bachelor’s degree are more likely to be hired into leadership and clinical education roles in various healthcare facilities. A bachelor’s degree will become a requirement for these positions as early as 2020. It also serves as a stepping stone to master’s and doctoral degrees, and advanced nursing practice.

No matter where you are in the world, health care services will always be needed. The job opportunities for registered nurses with bachelor’s degrees are expected to be excellent in the coming years, according to the Federal Government’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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Sonia Ashmeal
Mary Bartley*
Jennifer Bouchillon
Nicole Burks*
Pauline Chunnu
Faith Daza
Daniella Deronvil
Stephanie Dorisca
Yessica Echeverri-Cas-taneda*
Adhevil Florvil
Michelle Frazier
Brisson Germain
Olins Gesper
Elsa Gonzalez*
Tracy Gordon*
Michelle Griffin
Tania Guerrier
Kenia Hernandez
Daphnie Isme
Lecia James*  
Sanika James
Elmitha Joseph*
Nicole Juliano
Lital Kfir*
Bethany Kohs*
Stephanie Leavitt*
Jeanine Luster
Connie Mayo*
Nadine Murphy
Summer Pankin
Olivia Paoletti
Carrie Petrucione*
Daisy Phanord
Daniel Pierre*
Maell Pierre-Louis
Christina Rampaul Chen*
Sarah Rivero*
Jodi Rodriguez*
Kimberlyn Rowe
Maria Rowena Soriano*
Matthew Stern
Laurie Tansy*
Jonas Valcin
Julie Marly Valdes*
Leonida Washington*
Mercedes Wynruit

*Denotes Honor Society

Graduation Rates: Cohort 1 - 90%  Cohort 2 - 88%  Cohort 3 - 86%  Cohort 4 - 99%  Cohort 5 - 81%
Congratulations

BSN Scholarship and Award Recipients

VITAS SCHOLARSHIP

Sharon Smith 2014
Daniel Pierre 2013

LESSIE PRYOR SCHOLARSHIP

Hughette Shields 2014
Suzzette Reid 2013

S. HASSMILLER SCHOLARSHIP

Oyedoro Oydepo 2014
Chelsey Breig 2013

GERTRUDE SKELLY SCHOLARSHIP

Mary Bartley 2013
Tiffany Maxton 2013

Spotlight: Graduate Students

Edward Johnson graduated in 2013 and is currently completing his Master’s Program at FAU in Instruction and Curriculum. Edward also serves as a preceptor for the BSN Program here at Broward College.

Tracy-Ann Gordon graduated in 2013 and is currently working on her Master’s degree in Advanced Nurse Practitioner at FAU.

Arquillano Balthazar (Val) graduated in 2013 and was promoted to Clinical Nurse Educator at Broward Health upon completion of his BSN degree and now percepts for the RN-BSN Program.

Laurie Tansy graduated in 2013 and is currently working on her Master’s degree in Advanced Nurse Practitioner at FAU.
Lessie Pryor received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree from Florida A&M University in 1966. She continued her education earning a Master’s in Health Education from Florida International University in 1976; a second Masters in Nursing Education from Barry University in 1987; and a post-Master’s Certificate as an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner from Florida International University in 1997. Lessie was a dedicated nurse educator, clinician, and administrator for over 40 years.

Upon retiring twice, first as the Director of Nursing at Miami Dade College in 2007, and later as the first Program Manager for Broward College’s RN-BSN Program in August 2010, Lessie continued to work unselfishly to support the educational endeavors of registered nurses throughout Miami-Dade and Broward Counties.

Lessie had a passion for nursing and nursing education. She served as a role model to numerous new nurses and nursing faculty. She was skilled in computer technology and received numerous awards for her educational endeavors in the area of computerized testing. Lessie was also an active member in the Black Nurses Association, Miami Chapter and attended meetings until her health failed.

Lessie lost her battle with ALS in March 2013. However, her legacy lives on in the lives of the many nurses she trained at Jackson Memorial Hospital and educated at Miami-Dade College. The RN-BSN Program at Broward College dedicated a student scholarship in Lessie’s honor in 2011. The students, faculty, and staff members of the Broward College and the BSN Program stand with Lessie in her philosophy that states “all patients should be treated with compassion and humanity.”
Our bachelor’s curriculum is for licensed registered nurses, current Broward College students, interested transfer students from other colleges and universities, and individuals looking to enhance their nursing careers. Admission to the program is based on:

License: You must have a clear encumbered registered nurse license in the state of Florida.
Grade Point Average: You must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA and 2.5 nursing GPA to apply.
Associate Degree: Diploma program graduates holding a Florida registered nurse license must obtain an associate of science degree from an accredited institution before applying.

Online classes available! Achievable program that can be completed in 12 months!