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Orbis Education Expands Nursing Education Program to Glendale, California

Innovative Program Blends New and Traditional Learning Resources to Help Alleviate Nursing Shortage

Orbis Education has announced the launch of a new collaborative accelerated nursing program in the city of Glendale, California, in conjunction with the University of Oklahoma, **San Diego State University** and Glendale Adventist Medical Center. This is the second program of its kind from Orbis, with the first being launched a year ago in San Diego, California. The expansion of the program to Glendale allows students in the Los Angeles area to earn an Accelerated Second Degree BSN from the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing.

This innovative program blends tradition and technology, offering leading-edge online education and traditional on-site clinical education. Orbis works transparently to manage logistics from the beginning to the end of this process, including developing relationships with potential college affiliates, scouting clinical locations, conducting all marketing and public relations student recruitment efforts and managing the day-to-day operations. In establishing the new program, Orbis works diligently to meet the highest standards in education and health care set forth by all affiliates and regulatory bodies.

"The San Diego program has proven to be a success, with the first Accelerated BSN class scheduled to graduate this December," said Daniel Briggs, CEO of Orbis Education. "We are looking forward to having the nursing program running simultaneously at two locations and plan to continue implementing similar solutions with additional hospitals throughout the country."

In Glendale, students without previous healthcare experience and a degree in another field can become a nurse in as few as 14 months. The theory portion of the program is taught completely online by the faculty of OU, and the clinical education component is taught at Glendale Adventist Medical Center by adjunct appointed faculty.

"In California, it's estimated that over 10,000 new registered nurses will be needed each year for the next six years," Briggs said. "Hospitals today are being proactive in searching for ways to efficiently meet the high demand for nurses and our program is the solution they've been looking for."

According to a PricewaterhouseCoopers' report(1), the "use of temporary nurses is no longer a stop-gap measure but has become a way of life for many hospitals." Also noted in the report, hospital executives are challenged by the overhead associated

with attracting and retaining quality nurses. Current efforts to control the nursing shortage are taking away resources better spent on patient care. With the new collaboration in Glendale, dramatic cost reductions are expected to be seen in approximately 15 to 20 months, with cost savings increasing each year.

"Orbis Education provided us with a transparent solution to help educate the nurses our community needs," said Gwen Matthews, Senior Vice President of Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Officer of Glendale Adventist Medical Center. "We now host a fully accredited nursing program on premise without having to manage, recruit or administer anything."

Graduates of the program will earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree through a 14-month curriculum, provided they already hold a baccalaureate degree in another field. The curriculum is comprehensive, encompassing more than 600 hours of online course work and more than 900 hours of hands-on clinical preparation. Theory courses will be taught by University of Oklahoma nursing faculty via interactive online classes that include threaded discussions, real-time web casts, projects, assignments and proctored examinations. Students have the flexibility of completing the online courses during day or evening hours. Hands-on clinical preparation is taught by appointed adjunct University of Oklahoma faculty assigned to work directly with students at Glendale Adventist Medical Center.