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The California Board of Registered Nursing Approves Affiliations for Nursing Program in Glendale, California

Program Combines Online Education with On-site Clinical Training at Glendale Adventist Medical Center

Acknowledging the need for more nurses in the state, The California Board of Registered Nursing recently approved the expansion of the affiliation between **San Diego State University** and The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Nursing to provide clinical experiences in the city of Glendale, California.

Using the same innovative educational model that was implemented in San Diego last year in consultation with the Board of Registered Nursing, the new Glendale program is designed for students enrolled in the University of Oklahoma Online Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. Students receiving their clinical education will train locally at Glendale Adventist Medical Center.

The Accelerated Second Degree BSN Program is designed to help ease the nursing shortage by providing students with greater program access and flexibility, which ultimately will lead to more new nurses.

This collaborative program blends tradition and technology, offering leading-edge online education and traditional on-site clinical education. Individuals in the Los Angeles area who currently have a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing major may qualify to earn a BSN from the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing in as little 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 facilities by faculty appointed there.

The nationwide nursing shortage is reaching alarming scope with approximately one million unfilled nursing positions projected by 2020(1). According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), nursing schools must increase the number of graduates by 90 percent to combat the nursing shortage. Yet, in 2005, BSN programs denied more than 41,000 applicants due to lack of capacity and lack of faculty. Recognizing that the number of applicants far exceeds the number of available slots in California(2), this newly approved Accelerated Second Degree BSN degree program reduces faculty and capacity constraints by connecting nursing students in California with award-winning faculty in Oklahoma and potentially other states, thus opening the door to more students.

The University of Oklahoma College of Nursing is known for academic excellence and

was named a 2006 Center of Excellence in Nursing Education(TM) by the National League for Nursing.

"The OU College of Nursing is committed to addressing the nursing shortage through innovative learning options," notes Dean Carole Kenner. "Educational excellence is our mission. We are creating the next generation of healthcare leaders, and the country needs them sooner rather than later. We are thrilled to be able to work with Glendale Adventist to bring more caring, committed individuals into the nursing profession."

"Renowned for delivering superior and innovative healthcare, Glendale Adventist Medical Center has generously opened its doors to providing this educational opportunity to the community," said Gwen Matthews, Senior Vice President of Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Officer of Glendale Adventist Medical Center. "By associating ourselves with the University of Oklahoma's College of Nursing, we can offer students a unique educational experience combined with an approach to care that sets Glendale Adventist Medical Center apart from others."

The curriculum is comprehensive, encompassing more than 600 hours of online course work and more than 900 hours of hands-on clinical training at Glendale Adventist Medical Center. Theory courses taught by the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing faculty via interactive classes online will include threaded discussions, real-time Web casts, regular proctored examinations, projects and assignments. Students will have the flexibility of taking the online courses during day or evening hours. Hands-on clinical training will be taught by adjunct University of Oklahoma College of Nursing Program faculty assigned to work directly with students at Glendale Adventist Medical Center, with oversight and leadership provided by San Diego State University.

Graduates of the program will earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree through a 14-month curriculum, provided they already hold a bachelor's degree in another field. According to the AACN, hospitals prefer nurses with a bachelor's degree because facilities with more educated nurses experience lower patient mortality rates, fewer medical errors and increased job satisfaction.

Glendale Adventist Medical Center is a 457-bed, not-for-profit, faith-based hospital that provides a full range of inpatient, outpatient and emergency services to an increasingly diverse community. Services include, but are not limited to care from the center's: Heart and Vascular Institute, Neuroscience Institute, Behavioral Medicine, Cancer Care, Diabetes Care, Home Care, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Orthopedic Medicine, Rehabilitation Medicine, Women's and Newborn Services. For more information, visit <http://www.glendaleadventist.com>.

Glendale Adventist Medical Center is part of Adventist Health, a not-for-profit, faith-based health system operating in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. Founded on the Seventh-day Adventist heritage of Christian health care, Adventist Health is comprised of 18 hospitals with more than 2,800 beds, nearly 18,000 employees, numerous clinics and outpatient facilities, the largest system of rural health clinics in California, 15 home care agencies and three joint-venture retirement centers with a fourth on the way. For more information, visit <http://www.adventisthealth.com>.

Interest in the program has been high, Matthews noted, with numerous inquiries to Glendale Adventist personnel. Prospective students are encouraged to call 888.MY.OUBSN for more information. The first class is set to begin on August 25, 2008. Applications are due October 1, 2008, for classes that begin January 2009.

For more information about The University of Oklahoma College of Nursing Program, contact 888.MY.OUBSN or visit <http://www.ounursing.com>