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Important Dates

November 14
 Pre-Nursing Forum, South Bay, (10am)

November 18
 Pre-Nursing Forum, La Mesa, (3pm)

November 20
 Nursing Orientation – Welcoming Cohort 21 Students

November 21
 Last day of November classes

November 26-28
 National University closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Dean's Message

Welcome to the November, 2009 issue of the School of Health and Human Services e-newsletter!

This month's issue contains a feature story describing how the HITECH Act may impact new jobs in health informatics and how SHHS is preparing new degree programs to meet the anticipated need for an expanded workforce. We have also included announcements, recognitions and a summary of the journal club meeting this past October.

I am also pleased to report that we continue making progress towards developing the BS in Clinical Laboratory Science, which is being reviewed by university curriculum committees. If approved, this completely online program would become available in late spring. More information will be forthcoming.

If you have additional questions about any information contained in this newsletter, please feel free to contact me at mlacourse@nu.edu. We also invite comments and suggestions at shhs@nu.edu.

Please enjoy the newsletter.

Warm regards,

Michael Lacourse, PhD

Announcement

Kala Crobarger, Associate Director of Nursing

An orientation for the first Cohort of students in the new RN to BSN completion program was recently held at the College of the Canyons. This is an offsite program through the Sherman Oaks Campus. The program will be offered twice a year, Spring and Fall.

Dr. Kaye's HCA 624 Class

Dr. Kaye's HCA 624 class had an inside look at the construction and planning of the new wing of Rady Children's Hospital. The wing is scheduled to open in 2010 and the students had lengthy discussion about facilities and human resource planning involved in the building and transitioning to the new expansive facilities.



China Trip, October 2009

Dr. Alan Henderson, Department Chair of Community Health and Dr. Gina Piane, Professor, traveled to China in October 2009 to recruit students for the Masters in Healthcare Administration and Masters in Public Health degree programs



Henderson Cohort 3

Cohort 3 is ready and excited for their first clinical assignment.



Recognition

Theresa Tarrant, Nursing (Henderson)

Her dissertation was accepted for publication in Nursing Administration Quarterly for the Summer 2010 issue. Role Conflict, Role Ambiguity and Job Satisfaction in Nurse Executives.

Elected to the nominations committee for the Nevada Nurses Association

Henderson Campus held the orientation for Cohort 4 and three faculty members attended the NLNAC Accreditation workshop.

Dr. Jayne Moore, Nursing (Fresno)

Presentation at the WAC meeting in Sacramento entitled Creative Writing Assignments in Nursing and other Sciences.

Dr. Terry L. Schmidt, MHA Lead Faculty

Appointed to Regent's Advisory Council, San Diego/Imperial County Chapter, American College of Healthcare Executives.

Catherine Chung, Nursing Faculty (Henderson)

Appointed to the Health4Women editorial advisory board; a consumer magazine which is launching in January 2010 and will be distributed to hospital maternity units nationwide. Ms. Chung will have monthly articles in the magazine and on the accompanying website, www.Health4Women.org.

Summary of October Journal Club

Dr. Michael Lacourse presented at the October Journal club on the two articles: The abstracts for each article are below:

Article 1: We examined the impact of implementing a comprehensive health record (EHR) system on ambulatory care use in an integrated health care delivery system with more than 225,000 members. Between 2004 and 2007, the annual age/sex-adjusted total office visit rate decreased 26.2 percent, the adjusted primary care office visit decreased 21.5 percent. Scheduled telephone visits increased more than eightfold, and secure e-mail messaging, which began in late 2005, increased nearly sixfold by 2007. Introducing an EHR creates operation efficiencies by offering nontraditional, patient-centered ways of providing care. [*Health Affairs* 28, no. 2 (2009): 323-333; 10.1377/hlthaff.28.2.323]

Article 2: Although healthcare has lagged behind other industries in adopting online services, consumers will embrace online tools such as obtaining result of lab tests, scheduling appointments, and doctor-patient e-mail. Many challenges in using health care technology faced by small and midsize medical practices can be overcome by examining how Kaiser Permanente and other large integrated health systems handle the same problems. Collaboration among providers, combined with great government support, will help advance widespread consumer adoption of online health care. [*Health Affairs* 28, no. 2 (2009): 334-344; 10.1377/hlthaff.28.2.334]

Feature Story

HITECH Act and Health Informatics Careers

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), also known as the "Stimulus Bill", enacted in February 2009 by President Obama included the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, or HITECH Act. This new law provides \$19.2- \$32 billion to incentivize physicians and hospitals to implement an Electronic Health Records (EHR) system. Specifically, \$18 billion will be distributed through the Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement systems for hospitals and physicians who are "meaningful users" of EHR systems. It is believed that the meaningful use of EHR will improve health care and reduce costs.

Although the guidelines for effectively implementing EHR systems are still being developed by the federal government, it is clear that a much expanded health information technology workforce will be needed to implement EHR systems. According to California's Health Information Technology and Exchange Strategic Plan,

"Meeting this [workforce] demand is not as simple as producing and selling more EHRs. Selecting, buying, installing, customizing, integrating, training and maintaining electronic health records is a complex and time consuming task, requiring expertise in a number of highly specialized fields. The new financial incentives made available through ARRA combined with the accelerated timeline for installing EHR and other Health IT services make it clear that the existing Health IT workforce will be insufficient to meet this dramatic increase in demand.

It is projected that 9,000 additional Health IT workers with a broad range of skills and training will be required to support widespread EHR adoption in California over the next five years. Given the magnitude, characteristics, timing, and geographical distribution of the projected demand for HIT workers, a coalition of educational institutions must collaborate on this initiative and build a governance structure and sustainability model."

The School of Health and Human Services, in partnership with other NU faculty, industry professionals and other organizations, is developing new degree programs at the bachelor's and master's level to prepare individuals for employment in these new high demand careers. The first new degree program is the proposed Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN): Specialization in Nursing Informatics. This online program would provide nurses with the knowledge and skills for leading the implementation of EHR in clinical practice. The focus will be on using new systems and technologies to optimize clinical workflow and improve health outcomes.

It is our hope that this new program will be available online for students beginning either in summer 2010 or fall 2010. For more information, please contact the School of Health and Human Services.