News and Events

Nursing Shortage Addressed at GSU and in Washington

As the nation’s population continues to age and grow, there is an increasing need for qualified healthcare personnel, especially nurses. Experts predict that there will be a projected shortfall of one million nurses by 2020. This growing shortage is due primarily to the dearth of educators qualified and available to teach the next generation.

Luckily, Illinois is fighting the battle locally and in Washington D.C.

In December, the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved GSU’s new Doctor of Nursing Practice Program.

Distinguished as a professional doctorate, the DNP is different from traditional Ph.D. programs that prepare students to become researchers. Professional doctorates teach future practitioners how to understand and use evidence-based practice.

“The professional doctorate offers what the Ph.D. doesn’t,” said Linda Samson, Dean of the College of Health Professions. “It provides advanced knowledge and skills professionals need for actual practice in the discipline.”

The DNP has also been developed to address a critical shortage of nursing faculty. One of the major barriers to increasing the capacity to educate new nurses is the lack of qualified faculty. DNP prepared practitioner/educators will be able to bring their practice expertise to the classroom and the clinical settings in many nursing programs.

On the national front, Illinois Senator Dick Durbin is fighting a similar battle. According to Durbin’s office, nursing schools turned away 35,000 qualified applicants last year, including 1,900 in Illinois, due to the lack of nursing faculty.

Durbin is leading bi-partisan support of the innovative Troops to Nurse Teachers program. The program will help schools of nursing expand their capacity in order to meet the growing demand for nursing services. The Senator’s proposal offers incentives to nurses leaving the military to become nurse teachers. Eligible service members will receive career placement assistance, transitional stipends, and educational training from accredited schools of nursing to expedite their transition.

“Nurses who have spent time in the military can help fill a critical gap that hurts both military and civilian health care facilities. Their service to our country will go beyond their work in military
hospitals and include our classrooms and lecture halls,” Senator Durbin said.

As National Nursing week nears an end, Governors State University is proud to be on the forefront of addressing important issues like the nursing shortage, and stands behind Senator Durbin and his ongoing support of the Troops to Nurse Teachers program.

**Cap & Gown Pick-Up**

Excitement is in the air as Spring Commencement approaches. Nearly 600 GSU students will become proud alumni during the ceremony.

Cap and gown pick-up for graduates will take place on May 28 and 29, from 3 to 7 p.m., in the E-Lounge. Students will also receive their graduation tickets at this time.

Faculty may also pick-up their regalia at the same time. Faculty pick-up will take place in Room E 1582, adjacent to the E-Lounge.

The commencement ceremony will take place on Saturday, June 7, beginning at 11 a.m., at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

**Town Hall Meeting**

Dr. Maimon is hosting a town hall meeting with civil service staff on May 12, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., in Sherman Hall. The exchange of ideas and questions is an important tool in understanding and addressing issues important to the university community.

RSVP by May 7 to Penny Perdue at extension 4130.

**SURS Presentation On Campus**

State University Retirement System representative Jennifer Bartels, will be on campus to discuss retirement benefits on Tuesday, May 13, from 2:15 to 3:30 p.m., in the Hall of Honors.

Topics to be addressed include:

Which plan (traditional, portable, self-managed) is right for me?

When will I first be eligible to retire?

How is my retirement annuity (pension) calculated?

Can I count other service with another public employer?

Can I continue my health and dental insurance in retirement?

Contact the Dave Drechsel for additional information at 708.235.7467.
**Incredible India**

The Office of International Services is sponsoring a multimedia presentation, *Incredible India*, on May 14, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., in Sherman Hall. Everyone is welcome to take a break from the mundane and visit a truly beautiful and wondrous place – if only for an hour.

Jane Hindsley of Homewood and a member of the Homewood Rotary Club presents a film featuring the cities, temples, and countryside of India, highlighting various regions, the diverse cultures, and the history and people of the country.

**Spring Bake Sale**

There is very little that can’t be helped by a home baked cookie. Enjoy some tasty treats at the Civil Service Senate Spring Bake Sale on Thursday, May 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Workers and bakers are needed and you don’t have to be a senator to volunteer. Contact Renee Rainey at x7525.

**New Hires – April**

The following individuals joined GSU as full time employees during the month of April. Please welcome them to the university.

Lynn DiMaggio  
Senior Library Specialist  
University Library

Yakeea L. Daniels  
Admissions & Records Officer  
Admission and Student Recruitment

Marileen M. Flowers  
Clerk  
Student Life

Albert T. Haskins  
Director  
Project HOPE

Georgeen M. Ibarra  
Business/Administrative Associate  
Purchasing

Diane D. Jones  
Assistant to Associate V.P.  
Human Resources
Jane Radliff
Trainer
Contract & Training Services (DCFS)

Terence Nathaniel Simms
Research Coordinator
College of Health Profession