

Now that I have completed my first full year as Dean of the School of Nursing at Northeastern University Bouvé College of Health Sciences, I am able to take a breath and update you on the exciting new developments here. As many of you know, I started as Dean in January, 2010 and have been working hard to continue to make you proud to say “I went to NU Bouvé School of Nursing”.

Highlights for 2010-2011

We have expanded our partnership with the Army for our Certified Nurse Anesthetist program and NERVANA (Northeast Region Veterans Administration Nursing Alliance) program. Both of these initiatives are aimed at increasing the number and quality of clinical sites for our students. In this we are aligned with the recommendations in the Carnegie Foundation’s recently published *Educating Nurses: A Call for Radical Transformation* by Dr. Patricia Benner, Molly Sutphen, Victoria Leonard, and Lisa Day as well as with those in the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change Advancing Health*. Both call for a radical transformation of nursing education and practice through academic and practice partnerships and advance the call for more nurses to be educated at the baccalaureate and higher degrees.

We also recognize we live in a global society and our students must learn and work in this global context. To that end we have increased our initiatives through the development of an affiliate World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center through the University of Alabama Birmingham. This affords our students opportunities to participate in exchanges, work on research projects overseas, and learn that healthcare needs and nursing’s role are truly global. We have developed partnerships with CRUDEM Hôpital Sacré in Milot, Haiti; with a group in Spain, with Ben Gurion University in Israel, and other groups in Armenia and Spain just to name a few.

We are proud to announce that Bouvé College of Health Sciences is planning a new state-of-the-art Simulation Center. The Center will be the setting for interprofessional training, with our colleagues in pharmacy, physical therapy and health sciences, in the newest and safest practices designed to improve outcomes, ensure patient safety, and reduce medical errors. Work on the Center, which will be housed in the Behrakis Health Sciences center, will begin next year.

The Simulation Center is made possible by donations from generous alumni, corporations, foundations, and friends of Bouvé. If you would like to know ways to contribute to this project, please contact Stephen Tanne at s.tanne@neu.edu.

The Health in Motion Van is another exciting project. Staffed by NU students and faculty, this van works with community agencies to provide screening services for poor and the homeless. Under the direction of Professors Catherine O’Connor and Ann Hill our students get a firsthand view of community/public health issues and the challenges that many of our citizens face. The van travels the metropolitan area providing screening services, health teaching, and getting referrals for complex care. This year we are hoping to expand this to other health professional students as our new van will give us more space and modern equipment. Thanks to the generous donations of Covidien, CVS, and Boston Scientific, we are able to provide an added, broadened array of services.

As the Carnegie and RWJF reports indicate we need more BSN prepared nurses. To that end, the School of Nursing has updated the RN to BSN curriculum to align with the new trends in care. Our first PhD in Nursing graduated this year and we are growing our recently established Doctor of Nursing Practice post masters track. These are critical to advance the science of nursing and prepare nurses for leadership roles in practice and academe.

One of the cornerstones of the Benner Carnegie Foundation Report is experiential learning and here Northeastern is clearly ahead of the curve. Cooperative education has been an essential part of education here at Northeastern for over 100 years. For nursing, this additional experience and in depth experiential training affords our students the opportunity to be immersed in a healthcare setting. Students are able to gain experience in a clinical setting by working full time as a care partner or clinical assistant for the entire semester. They develop resumes and interviewing skills when job hunting well before they graduate. These coops also get the student known to an employer often leading to a job straight out of school!

Did you know that you can support the School of Nursing and receive income for life? Click here [link: <http://www.legacy.vg/neu/articles/2.html>] to learn more or Carolyn Buckley-Cooper at 617-373-2030 or giftplanning@neu.edu.

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