BSMART Funds Support New Program Formats

New Online RN to BSN Program

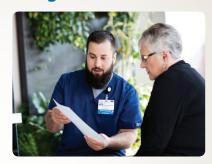
In spring 2020, the college will launch a fully online RN to BSN program that will allow associate degree prepared nurses to complete their bachelor's degree in one year. Realigning and consolidating core nursing courses means the RN to BSN program can compete on local, regional and national outreach levels.



Along with the consolidated time frame and fully online option, Bryan Medical Center wants to help their employees along the way by offering a \$10,000 forgiveable loan upon completion. This partnership through the B-SMART program will continue to help us recruit and retain RNs and respiratory therapists into the future.

Respiratory Therapy Track Begins

To meet the need for respiratory therapists, the college will add a fully online respiratory therapy track to the health professions completion program. The respiratory therapy profession is moving toward giving preference, and even requiring new RT candidates to have bachelor's degrees in the future.



Providing a way for respiratory therapists to achieve their bachelor's degree completion with courses designed for their specific area aligns with the college mission to collaborate with Bryan Health to provide quality and affordable health professions education.

Current respiratory therapy employees are eligible for the \$10,000 forgivable loan offered through the BSMART program for this new track.

MSN Accreditation Renewed

The MSN program received continued ACEN accreditation through 2026 without stipulations. We are proud of all of the work faculty and staff put into building this program and look forward to continued success.

Time truly does fly when you are having fun. As the new dean of students, onboarding to Bryan College of Health Sciences has been an honor. On my first day in February, which was blustery cold, I remember asking myself, "What knowledge will I have gained by the end of the semester?" "How strong will my relationships be with students and colleagues?" and "What will I discover as potential next steps in learning from the past of the college that will help shape its future?"

This past semester I have spent my time getting to know students, engaged in listening conversations, building relationships with faculty and staff, and thinking about the next layer of 'calls to action' that are necessary for meeting the evolving needs of students. While I have a 'to-do' list for the summer months, I will continue my engaged conversations with campus partners, colleagues and students.

As my first semester has now come to an end, thank you for your partnership. I look forward to getting to know you and the opportunity to make meaningful contributions to an exquisite leadership team.

Proud to call myself a blue healer,

Alethea Strall

Dr. Alethea Stovall
Dean of Students
alethea.stovall@bryanhealth.org
402-481-3804





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Health Sciences
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ISSUE V

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Nursing Students Present at Nebraska Conference



Four bachelor of science in nursing students, left to right (Brittany Robinson, Emily Klein, Briana Aguilar, Ashley Holm) presented their paper: "What Current Research Can Teach Medical Personnel About Sepsis Management and Treatment" at the annual meeting of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences. Their excellent presentation was welcomed by the audience and generated several great questions and comments from attendees.

Bryan Early College Access Program for High School Students

This spring the college welcomed the first cohort of 19 high school students into the Bryan Early College Access Program (BECAP). The first course, Intro to Health Sciences taught by Dr. Kelsi Anderson, provost, and Ashley Kennedy, assistant professor, are part of BECAP. This program seeks to introduce students to a wide array of opportunities within health care and give them a glimpse at what the college has to offer. After they successfully complete this first course, students are invited to enroll in other general education courses at a discounted tuition rate to help defray the cost of future attendance. The second cohort of BECAP students will enroll this fall.

First EdD Graduates



Bryan College of Health Sciences graduated its first class of education doctorate with emphasis in nursing education students this May. Four faculty from the college made up the inaugural class. Melinda Bentjen, Tiffany Hunt, Katie Sladky and Michelle Summers teach in the undergraduate nursing program. They were thankful to be a part of this first graduating class and for the support they received throughout the program.

"Everyone wants you to be successful," Melinda said. "Whether it's your peers, your faculty, the support roles here, the library staff, everyone helped with whatever we needed all while cheering us on, too."

So what is next after finishing a terminal degree? "I thought this would be terminal, and that I would be done with education on May 3," Melinda added. "But it's really sparked my interest in learning more about education. I thought that once I was done with this that I wouldn't research ever again, but now I'm excited to see what's next and to disseminate the research further."

alth Sciences

Bryan's Spark BNA Program Brings New Hands to Nursing

An innovative collaboration between Bryan College of Health Sciences and Lincoln Literacy is helping solve Nebraska's statewide shortage of CNAs by supporting qualified recent immigrants to Lincoln in their desire to become

nursing assistants.

The program is made possible by Spark Grants provided to the college and Lincoln Literacy by the Lincoln Community Health Endowment. The goal is helping residents who are immigrants or refugees from other countries to complete basic nursing assistant (BNA) training, and become CNAs.

Bryan College of Health Sciences, which trains 75 to 100 nursing assistant students each year, expanded classroom space to include

16 new students expected to enroll this year in the Spark BNA Program. Lincoln Literacy will screen students before they apply to the program, and provide them with language and content tutoring before and during their training.

"Our goal in creating this program is two-pronged," says Provost Kelsi Anderson, PhD. "First, we want to offer career training to immigrants and refugees living in Lincoln. By doing so, we help address the CNA shortage and facilitate positive employment outcomes in our city. Our second priority

is providing our students with entry level training in health care, after which they might pursue a more advanced health care career, such as becoming a registered nurse or physician."

Six students are enrolled as a pilot group for the program.

"Although many of these students were health care professionals in their home countries, health care experience isn't necessary for students applying to the program," says Kay Crabtree, BSN, PhD, dean of health professions. After students complete the 16-week class, which includes a weekly three-hour lecture and three-hour skills lab, they are eligible to sit for the nursing assistant certification examination.

"The students in our pilot group were very motivated and passionate about their work and excited to learn," Dr. Crabtree says. In March of this year, the college hosted a job fair where the students met with potential future employers.

"We look forward to following students from our Spark BNA Program to see where they become employed," Dr. Anderson says, "and we hope they will come back to Bryan College of Health Sciences to pursue more education in the future."

A Successful Alumni Weekend

The college hosted its annual alumni weekend on June 7 and 8. More than 100 alumni attended, along with alumni board members, college faculty, staff and administration. The weekend included a presidential tea honoring the classes of 1969, reception, annual business meeting and luncheon to honor distinguished alumni.



LGH Class of 1969



Healer House Now Open

Healer House, the new spirit store for the college opened its doors on May 1 to a group of excited students, faculty and staff. The store offers Bryan College of Health Sciences logo items such as T-shirts, coffee mugs, water bottles and other seasonal items. The store will be open twice a week during the semester. Stop in and shop the next time you visit!



Bryan School of Nursing Class of 1969