



ALUMNI NEWS  
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NURSING

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY,  
NURSING, AND ALLIED SCIENCES

## JOINING FORCES

### NDSU ACQUISITION OF SANFORD COLLEGE OF NURSING BUILDS FOR THE FUTURE

June 30, 2014, marks an important date in the nursing education of North Dakota. It's the day the NDSU College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences officially acquired the Bismarck-based Sanford College of Nursing. The school is now NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health.

The move signals a focus on expanding nursing health care as a priority in the state.

"As part of a land-grant university, our mission is to meet the state's need for nursing care," said Carla Gross, associate dean of the NDSU nursing program. "We are committed to helping address the critical shortage of nurses in western North Dakota."

Karen Latham, who has served as dean of the Bismarck school for the last 19 years, said "The impetus to explore a partnership with a university was prompted by a Higher Learning Commission bylaws change requiring colleges to be separately incorporated."

The commission recommended the Sanford College of Nursing explore possible partnerships with another accredited college or university as an option to keep accreditation and funding support.

The partnership between NDSU and the Sanford College of Nursing made sense because each program shared similar curricula, philosophies and mission. NDSU also already has a broad existing relationship with Sanford that spans academics, clinical practice and research.

Faculty and administrators frequently met to shape a shared curriculum that built on each program's strengths. The new curriculum was launched in fall 2014.

The schools continue to grow. Beginning in fall 2014, the pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at NDSU's Fargo campus expanded from admitting 64 students each fall semester to admitting 48 students each fall and spring semester for a total of 96 students each year. A total of 288 students are enrolled in the program. Plans include doubling the program to 128 students within five years, as clinical sites become available.

The Bismarck campus recently began accepting 40 students per semester.

Plans also are in place to expand the NDSU doctor of nursing practice program to the Bismarck campus. It was just the third of its

kind in the country to become accredited in 2011 and will prepare more primary care providers to meet the region's health care needs. Students from western North Dakota also will have access to NDSU's online LPN to BSN program.

The NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health location and partnership with Sanford fills an important role in meeting the clinical needs of nursing students, Gross said. The facility is located on the same block as the Sanford Medical Center in Bismarck.

"Clinical sites are one of the biggest issues that needs to be addressed to develop and run any nursing program," Gross said.

Clinical practice often leads to internships and jobs at the medical center, said Missy Hanson, assistant professor of practice at NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health. She can't walk down the halls of the Bismarck hospital without running into former students who are employed there.

Hanson, originally from New England, North Dakota, joined the Sanford College of Nursing faculty in 2006. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from NDSU in 1993. Gross's former student is now a colleague.

"The move brings together the best of both worlds for me," Hanson said. "I already know NDSU has a good program. In a way, it feels like coming home."

## A STORIED LEGACY: ALUMNA KEEPS GRADUATES CONNECTED



The Bismarck nursing program graduated its first class in 1912. Marilyn Schwartzbauer has been instrumental in keeping the college's alumni connected. She taught at the college and is a longtime member of its foundation.

She helps coordinate alumni events and communication. Schwartzbauer said alumni stepped up during a \$100,000 fundraising campaign that marked the school's 100th anniversary in 2009.

Schwartzbauer graduated from the former Bismarck Hospital School of Nursing and is the clinical coordinator at the Sanford Medical Center, Bismarck's intensive care unit, where she has worked since 1975.

"The college always has been progressive and forward-thinking about changes in education," she said. "The school would do whatever it needed to do for its students to be successful."

## PROGRAM CHAIRS



### CARLA GROSS

*Associate dean,  
NDSU nursing program*

*Chair of nursing, Fargo campus*

*Associate professor of practice  
Has taught at NDSU since 1987*

#### Degrees:

Bachelor's in nursing, University of North Dakota

Master's in nursing, University of Kentucky

Doctorate in adult education, NDSU

#### Family:

She and her husband, Dean, who is the director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at NDSU, have two grown children and one in college.



### KAREN LATHAM

*Chair of nursing,  
Bismarck campus*

*Taught at NDSU for five years*

*Spent 22 years at Bismarck,  
including the last 19 as dean*

#### Degrees:

Bachelor's in nursing, University of North Dakota

Master's in nursing, University of Minnesota

Doctorate in nursing, University of Colorado

**Family:** Her husband, Steve, is an attorney in Bismarck. They have two children currently in college.



## KEEPING PACE WITH CHANGE: NDSU ALUMNA SAYS EXPANSION GOOD FOR FUTURE

Jo Burdick has her finger on the pulse of the nursing field in North Dakota. She is vice president of patient services/chief nurse executive in the Sanford Health Network Fargo region.

Burdick earned an associate degree in nursing from NDSU in 1979 and is a member of the program's alumni advisory board.

She said the acquisition and expansion of the nursing program bodes well for the future. "We'll be needing more nurses with the aging population, especially in North Dakota and the whole region," she said.

Burdick said nursing careers have changed and NDSU's program has kept pace. Nursing has evolved from solely providing bedside care to a variety of specializations, including clinical informatics, home care and hospice, and industrial nurses working in a corporation.

"In the last couple of years the program has made some great strides," Burdick said. "University leadership sees the value in the nursing department and the need for nurses across the community and the state."



## THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE: NDSU EDUCATION A FAMILY AFFAIR



Karli Olson, a senior from Wild Rose, North Dakota, is part of the first class scheduled to graduate from the NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health. She'll follow family tradition when she walks across the stage to accept an NDSU degree. Her grandfather has fond memories of playing basketball at NDSU and Olson's parents met while attending the university.

"My senior year and upcoming graduation will be exciting for all of us," she said.

Olson's academic career has gone full circle. She attended NDSU in pursuit of a degree in radiologic science. She transferred to Medcenter One College of Nursing, attended the Sanford College of Nursing and is scheduled to graduate from NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health.

She was excited about the NDSU acquisition. She said the move has offered access to NDSU libraries and resources as well as the chance to network with other nursing professionals.

"Our professors at NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health have done an outstanding job keeping students up-to-date with any changes, accommodating our educational needs, as well as revamping their academic course work to meet the NDSU requirements," Olson said.

**NDSU DEPARTMENT OF NURSING AND NDSU NURSING AT SANFORD HEALTH TIMELINES**



**1969** NDSU begins an associate degree program in nursing.

**1986** Tri-College Nursing Consortium accredited by National League of Nursing

**1989** NDSU and Concordia College, Moorhead, begin a collaborative baccalaureate nursing program (Tri-College Nursing Consortium). The associate degree program at NDSU is discontinued.

**2004** The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accredits both the undergraduate and graduate programs. Total NDSU nursing student enrollment is 305.

**2005** NDSU offers its own independent BSN program, admitting 64 students each year. NDSU begins a doctor of nursing practice degree program, the third program of its kind in the United States – and first in North Dakota.

**2007** NDSU launches an LPN to BSN program in cooperation with MeritCare Health System, now Sanford Health. The North Dakota Board of Higher Education approves NDSU's request for beginning a doctor of nursing practice degree program.

**2008** NDSU establishes its own independent graduate nursing program.

**2011** The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accredits the DNP program.

**2014** NDSU master's program earns a full 10-year accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

**NDSU DEPARTMENT OF NURSING**

**NDSU NURSING AT SANFORD HEALTH**

**1909** The first unit of Bismarck Hospital is officially opened for patients. Bismarck Hospital School of Nursing is established.

**1912** Bismarck Hospital School of Nursing graduates first class.

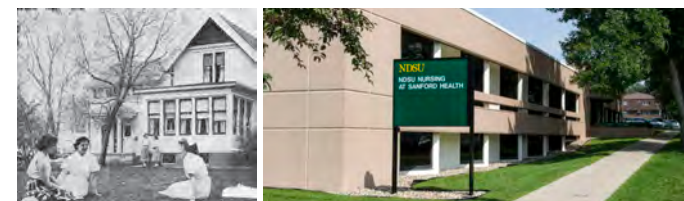
**1917** A four-story addition is added to Bismarck Hospital and includes the Bismarck Hospital School of Nursing.

**1981** Groundbreaking ceremonies are held for a new Bismarck Hospital School of Nursing.

**1982** The new Bismarck Hospital School of Nursing building is completed. It is a National League of Nursing-accredited three-year diploma program.

**1984** Bismarck Hospital announces its new name, Medcenter One.

**1988** The Medcenter One College of Nursing becomes the first and only hospital-based nursing program in the state to be approved for college status and to award a baccalaureate degree in nursing.



**2012** The Medcenter One College of Nursing becomes Sanford College of Nursing.





**NDSU**

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## SUDRO HALL NURSING FACILITIES ENTER NEW ERA



NDSU nursing students noticed a bit of a facelift at Sudro Hall this fall. A new nursing skills lab and simulation center awaited them. The nursing department offices also were renovated.

The skills lab includes seven patient care stations with state-of-the-art equipment. The simulation center includes two training rooms connected to an observation room, a large conference/debriefing room, a storage room and some office space.

Jo Burdick, who works for Sanford Health and serves on the NDSU nursing alumni advisory board, said the renovation is a great addition to the program. The simulation mannequins can breathe, blink, deliver babies and have heart attacks—almost anything you can do with a real patient, Burdick said. “It allows for a student to stop and rewind, something you can’t do with a real person in a clinical environment,” she said. “Students can stop and learn at a pace that will stick with them.”