

# Indiana State University

2005 - 2006 Academic Annual Report

Nursing

Year in Review

## Accomplishments

**As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University's accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department's accomplishments for the 2006-2007 year that will contribute to this effort? [Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.]**

- Increased BSN NCLEX-RN pass rates. State regulations require that the percent of graduates passing the exam be no more than 1 SD below the national rate for first time takers. 2004 2005 ISU 70.60% 89.36% First Time Takers 84.80% 87.29% One SD Below National Pass Rate 70.20% 76.49% • The Graduate Program has been recognized in U.S. News and World Report as being among the top 100 graduate programs in the nation. Only three on the list were from Indiana. • The mean score (404) for graduates of the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) track in the Graduate Nursing Program on the AACN certification examination was above the national mean (399). • Increased enrollments including transfer students. Total enrollment for spring 2006 was 611. • Continued to gain state board approvals for offering the LPN-BS distance track across the nation. We now have approval in 26 states and 2 territories with approvals in several more states pending. • Three existing courses in the undergraduate program were converted for on-line delivery (NURS 200, 226 and 324) and two existing on-line RN-BS courses were revised for delivery to include LPN-BS students (NURS 318, 322, and 405). • All tenured and tenure-track faculty are involved in some governance committee work: University/College/Department. • Secured another articulation agreement for the RN-BS program track. We now have 4 agreements in place with community colleges.

## Research and Scholarship

**What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of research and scholarship that is focused primarily on contributions to practice and discipline-based scholarship? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?**

The research and scholarship activities for the Department are not fully reflected in the reports generated through Digital Measures because many faculty did not report using that system this year. The Research Report should be amended to reflect that faculty reviewed 31 (rather than 14) books, journals & web pages and 2 additional published articles. Faculty are looking at ways to do more collaborative ventures. Faculty work load has been heavy which has limited the amount of time available to concentrate on scholarship and research. It is our goal to work on improving the productivity in this area.

## Grants, Contracts & Off Campus Professional Service

**What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of grants, contracts, and off campus professional service? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?**

The Department received approximately \$50,000 in grants and contracts in 2005 which was up from 2004. Faculty have applied for other grant that have not been funded but are continuing to seek out

additional funding opportunities. This is an area in which improvement is needed. Off campus professional service is outstanding. Cumulatively the Department was engaged in 25 national or regional activities and 257 other important scholarly or service activities. Not all faculty submitted faculty activity reports through Digital Measures-some of the data are from hard copies. Has your department developed any pedagogies or practices you'd like to share with us? Describe briefly. • Both the graduate and undergraduate programs have growing distance education tracks for students with some nursing background (LPN or RN). In terms of clinical supervision with clients it is essential for distance students to have a qualified registered nurse as preceptor. Qualifications vary with the program and state regulations. The ISU course faculty is responsible for the on-line instruction of the student and clinical evaluation with input from the preceptor. Agency and preceptor contracts must be in place and validation of the credentials of the preceptor are essential components for success and maintaining the integrity of the preceptorship. The preceptor is not compensated monetarily so it is certainly cost effective. This has been most successful.

### Course Scheduling/Enrollment Management

#### **What have been your greatest challenges in scheduling courses to meet student needs this year? How were you able to overcome them?**

Nursing students are assigned to learning communities in the first semester of the program of studies. While the LCs are a benefit to the students and help with retention, it is often difficult to get them registered into other required cognate courses/labs that do not conflict in time. The Director of Student Affairs in the College and I have worked with Robert Guell to map out the most appropriate timing for the LCs to avoid conflict-It has helped but not eliminated the problem. Many of our distance education students have difficulty getting into distance sections of cognate (support) courses that are prescribed by the program as well as general education courses. In some cases the students cannot progress in a timely fashion and may transfer to other institutions. It can cause the student problems with financial aid because they may not be able to carry a full load. At the very least they are not satisfied with the system. As Chair I have made our needs known to other department. I'm serving on Gen Ed Council who has tried to address the issue. There has been a shortage of spaces in sections of particularly the science courses required by the nursing major. This has prevented students from meeting the prerequisites required for admission to the major. The LIFS department has been very cooperative in trying to meet our needs but has the same constraints of shortage of faculty as does other departments. Gen Ed Council approved the anatomy and physiology course in Athletic Training and PE to count toward the liberal studies requirements which will allow a few more spaces. Students have been advised to transfer in equivalent courses from other institutions when no space is available for registration. I also granted an administrative exception for freshmen to take one of the science courses concurrent with the sophomore level nursing course, but this is not the answer and puts the student at a disadvantage for learning success.

### Outreach

#### **What are the outreach opportunities for your discipline? (non-traditional modes of delivery and timing, etc)**

• Distance education is reaching many nurses who otherwise would not be able to continue their education (LPN-BS, RN-BS completion, Graduate). These are nurses who are working full or part-time, and often have family responsibilities. Many agencies offer benefits to their nurses that pay for continuing education. • Many health care agencies are seeking Magnet Status through the American Nurses Association in an effort to attract professional staff (physicians, nurses, other health care providers) and to improve patient perception/satisfaction with services provided. In order to achieve Magnet Status there are requirements relate to the educational level of the professional nursing staff. This will increase the desire of those institutions to provide educational opportunities

to existing employees. The College is currently developing a proposal to take our program to the agencies.

## Strategic Initiatives

### Development Activities

**What steps have you taken to support development activities in your department? How can your efforts be supported?**

The Dean has met with the development specialist to discuss potential plans for involvement. An alumni mailing has already gone out.

### Community Engagement I

**Please summarize your faculty's efforts in community engagement this year.**

- Ten faculty were active members of community boards (i.e., March of Dimes, CODA, Wabash Valley Breast Cancer Survivor Organization, United Way agencies).
- Several faculty who are Nurse Practitioners provided service at physician's offices, indigent or free clinics, Sycamore Nursing Center remote health and on-line clinics.
- Faculty provided care to over 160 individuals through the Home Health division of Sycamore Nursing Center either through direct services or supervised student participation.
- Faculty provided well-child care to children 1 month-19 years through the ambulatory clinics at Sycamore Nursing Center either through direct services or supervised student participation including immunizations and physicals; and health assessments for adults and women (pap smears & pelvic exams).

### Experiential Learning

**We are interested in hearing about any innovative approaches you might have taken to incorporate experiential learning into your course or departmental work this year.**

Community engagement is a natural fit with the professional role of nurses. I expect that faculty will continue to be engaged without encouragement.

## Future Goals

### Future Goals

**The University is highlighting experiential learning, community engagement, and eminent programs as aspects of our campus that will attract students and resources. How is your department planning to contribute to these strategic initiatives in ways that will help ISU be recognized as a Pre-eminent University?**

- The development of the LPN-BS on-line program is currently the only one of its kind in the nation. Aided by the exclusive contract with The College Network the program is being widely marketed. The program is growing enrollments. We are dedicated to maintaining the integrity of the program in line with our vision to provide the best educational experiences that result in competent and caring nurses.
- The College has raised its admission standards and implemented an application process to adequately screen candidates for the nursing major with the intention of attracting better qualified students, improving retention, graduation, and NCLEX-RN pass rates in the Baccalaureate Program.
- The College has implemented an assessment and remediation program using products from Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) to improve retention, graduation, and NCLEX-RN pass rates for the Baccalaureate Program.
- The faculty plan program revision in the graduate tracks to change from a Master's level Family Nurse Practitioner track to a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) level by the year 2010. We need to be forward looking and in keeping with National trends.

We plan to remain in the top 100 graduate programs in the Nation. We have the only FNP Program in the area and have extended it distance modality. • The Administration track in the Graduate program will be offered on a rotational basis every other year to better utilize faculty resources, maintain an appropriate section size, and remain cost effective. • There is plan for a phase-out of the Adult Health and Community Health tracks and develop an on-line Nurse Educator track to address the shortage of nursing faculty. This may help us “grow our own” faculty to meet the impending need that will be created by retirements. • The College will continue to seek out qualified adjunct faculty to teach in the program. The joint appointments with local hospitals will help control cost.

### Feedback

**This section is to allow you to share your ideas for enhancing enrollment or dealing with budget and other challenges facing the administration.**

Ideas for enhancing enrollment or dealing with budget and other challenges facing the administration: • Increase the fees for distance courses/distance education. • Increase fees for challenge exams for courses • Enhance the effectiveness of the Office of Admissions in handling correspondence to prospective and new students- they may need more help. The cost would be off-set by satisfaction and retention of students.