Rapid growth drives change to School of Nursing

NDSU Nursing is now the NDSU School of Nursing.

The change came in March 2015 when the college's name became the College of Health Professions to recognize the full scope of its academic mission. It previously was the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences.

School of Nursing Associate Dean Carla Gross said the change was driven primarily by the rapid expansion of NDSU nursing programs that already have a proven record of providing high-quality, hands-on education.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing at NDSU is now the largest pre-licensure BSN program in North Dakota. Its enrollment has jumped from 192 to 528 since 2013, or 300 percent in just two years.

“We've had unprecedented growth in programs, students and, as a result, faculty members,” Gross said. “We've been getting bigger in every way while maintaining excellence in our programs. The prestige of the school designation helps validate that.”

In addition to the pre-licensure BSN growth, NDSU has a two-year online LPN to BSN program with about 64 students. The School of Nursing expects to launch an online RN to BSN program in the fall of 2016 with plans to admit about 32 students each year.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program also has grown by 50 percent. While the program in Fargo has remained constant at about 30 students (10 students admitted each year), NDSU will begin offering the DNP in Bismarck, in the fall of 2015. NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health in Bismarck will admit five students annually for a total of 15 in the three-year program.
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Then it clicked. Seefeld always wanted to help people and do something with her life that would have positive impacts on others. That’s what nurses do. So she enrolled in the North Dakota State University nursing program.

The senior from Bismarck, North Dakota, is flourishing at NDSU. She’s learning each day what it takes to be a great nurse from knowledgeable, engaged and caring faculty and staff. Some of Seefeld’s favorite experiences have occurred in the simulation lab, where students perform tasks on high-tech, lifelike and interactive mannequins. “When it’s done you feel like you can handle anything,” she said.

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