School of Nursing is gaining fiscal momentum

The Sacramento State School of Nursing’s three-year campaign to raise $1.8 million for equipment, technology, furnishings and supplies for its Folsom Hall has exceeded expectations. During his Fall Address, President Alexander Gonzalez announced that nearly $2.1 million has been raised.

That’s good news because since moving to Folsom Hall, the school has increased classroom and laboratory space available for student use from 10,000 to 60,000 square feet and boosted the number of high-fidelity simulation laboratories from two to seven.

The cutting-edge labs are stocked with state-of-the-art human patient simulators that mimic the symptoms and mannerisms of live patients. The simulation labs are incorporated into innovative curricula to prepare students for real-world situations.

Funding for equipment and materials for the Folsom Hall expansion was kick-started by a $500,000 grant from The Frank M. and Gertrude R. Doyle Foundation. The University Foundation at Sacramento State pledged to match these funds by raising an additional $500,000. University Enterprises Inc., Sierra Health Foundation, Dignity Health, Western Health Advantage and BloodSource are institutional partners helping to build the future of nursing through their generous support.

Students and alumni from the School of Nursing’s spring Class of 2011 and the Class of 2013 made major gifts of $10,000 to the campaign, which includes estate commitments totaling nearly $750,000 in bequests and estate gifts.

“My husband, Michael, and I contributed to the nursing campaign as we saw an opportunity to support both technology and nursing – our two careers,” says Sac State Professor Tanya K. Altmann, RN. “Both the campaign for nursing and the school’s move to Folsom Hall have enabled a state-of-the-art nursing education program at Sacramento State. It has bonded the faculty and provided the tools to ensure the community has outstanding nursing for the future.”

The School of Nursing upgrade is crucial because studies show that the state of California can expect a shortage of 12,000 registered nurses this year.

- Sac State receives about 650 qualified applicants per year; however, only about half of these students are admitted.
- Undergraduates in the School of Nursing’s traditional program enter the program with an average GPA of 3.8 to 3.9.
- With changing health care requirements, well-educated nurses are even more in need. Sac State nurses maintain high academic standards, including an impressive 97 percent first-time pass rate on state board exams since 2009-10.
Most Sac State graduates remain in the region, and 85 percent reside in California.

A bachelor of science in nursing degree completion program, which has been developed with three local community colleges, begins in summer 2015 and will enroll 40 students yearly.

The 2011 Institute of Medicine report calls for an increase in the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020, putting Sac State graduates – who hold bachelor’s and master’s degrees – at the forefront of the profession.

A fiscally strengthened School of Nursing is poised to produce even more graduates to meet the profession’s needs.

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