Van Wyk Returns to the Potter's Wheel at Dordt

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This fall, Dordt will end its collaboration with St. Luke’s College and begin a brand-new nursing program. The program is moving from the St. Luke’s campus in Sioux City to Dordt’s campus in Sioux Center.

The new curriculum will be concept-based, with each year having a different focus: learning and adaptation in year one, wellness and health promotion in year two, chronic and predictable conditions in year three, and acute and complex conditions in year four.

Bringing nursing students to Dordt’s campus opens up doors that weren’t available while the program was in Sioux City. “We get to share our Christian perspective every semester,” says Nursing Instructor Melanie Wynja. “The nursing staff will be able to better fulfill their mission of teaching students to ‘live out nursing practice to bring glory to God.’”

“The new courses and clinicals are based on God’s Word, equipping students with professional knowledge, skills, and wisdom,” says Associate Provost Leah Zuidema. “Our graduates will have a deep understanding of each area of nursing care that they can apply wherever they serve.”

Instead of making two to four trips to Sioux City each week, students will leave campus for clinicals only once per week.

“Staying on campus will allow us to participate more fully in campus life and mingle with other students,” says Holly Hiemstra, a junior nursing major.

Nursing students on Dordt’s campus will have access to a hospital-like laboratory setting with a state-of-the-art simulation studio. Students will also participate in direct patient care in over 24 area hospitals and clinics such as Sanford Health in Sioux Falls and Orange City Area Health Center in Orange City.

Dr. Deb Bomgaars, nursing instructor and head of the department, looks forward to having nursing students be a more integral part of college life. “They can walk into our offices any time they need to, and we’ll be with them from beginning to end, rather than just admitting them as freshmen and then teaching them as seniors,” says Bomgaars. “We’ll get to watch them grow through the whole program.”

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