Allen College receives $1.2M grant to support rural health

Allen College has been selected to receive $1,224,179 in grant funding to be dispersed over a three-year period beginning October 1, 2022. The program is part of the U.S. Department of Education’s Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development Program (84.116W) and will allow Allen College to start a Rural Student Success Program (RSSP).

The RSSP will be designed to benefit rural high school students, their support systems, rural healthcare employers and institutions of higher education within 50 miles of Waterloo. Additionally, the program will aim to increase rural partnerships and community engagement, expand and enhance rural student support services and provide financial assistance specifically for students from rural areas.

These long-term initiatives will lead to an increase in rural student enrollment, retention and completion and result in more qualified healthcare personnel in the workforce for years to come.

New nursing curriculum: 12-month or 24-month options

In order to meet the needs of today’s college students, Allen College’s School of Nursing has implemented new curricula for both the traditional and accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) tracks.

After conducting a comprehensive analysis and comparisons of data, the accelerated track of BSN program will be offered over 12 months (three semesters) and the traditional track will be offered over 24 months (four semesters).

These revised curricula will provide students with an immersive clinical experience throughout their program to enhance their education and the transition from student to practicing nurse. Ongoing collaboration with clinical partners will continue to be essential to provide exceptional preparation for practice.

These changes represent meticulous planning by the BSN leadership and faculty to continue to provide the educational opportunities to allow our graduates to maintain the exemplary graduate outcomes in both certification scores and job placement.

Since the beginning of 2021, Allen College’s NCLEX RN pass rate is 98.29% (234 test takers) compared to the national average of 79.78% for all RN programs over the same time frame.

The new curricula will start in 2023.

If you know of someone wishing to pursue a healthcare career, please reach out to our Admissions Team at (319) 226-2514 or Admissions@AllenCollege.edu
As our country’s healthcare system continues to find its footing in a post-pandemic era, the effect on the healthcare labor market continues to be challenging. Healthcare systems are grappling with shortages of employees across the board but especially in direct patient care roles. The lack of supply of healthcare workers has created increased pressures on colleges and universities to increase the number of graduates from healthcare programs.

Allen College continues to evolve to meet these demands and many of the changes we are implementing are presented in this newsletter.

Both our traditional and accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing curricula were revised and will be implemented in 2023. Our Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program will be transitioning to a doctoral program by 2025. Allen College was awarded a federal grant to increase college attainment by students living in rural areas to hopefully increase the number of graduates who want to work in rural healthcare.

Allen College is also working very closely with UnityPoint Health to create pathways for employees to further their education and grow within the organization.

I am confident we will continue to adapt to meet the needs of the healthcare workforce by offering educational healthcare programs of excellence to a diverse community while instilling the values of service, inclusion and lifelong learning.

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Program migrates to a doctoral degree

Allen College’s Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MS in OT) program will transition the current master’s program curriculum to a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD) over the next several years.

As part of this transition, the MS in OT program leadership has initiated the necessary accreditation approvals required for a doctoral-level program. Approvals have already been obtained from the Allen College Board of Trustees, the Iowa Coordinating Council and the Higher Learning Commission. The program has also received initial approval from Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) to start the transition process.

The program is now focusing on submitting the necessary documentation to ACOTE. The expected timeline is the OTD program will receive Candidacy Status by ACOTE in early 2025 with the first class of doctoral students matriculating in fall semester of 2025.

The 2023 and 2024 cohorts of MS in OT students will continue in the master’s curriculum until their scheduled graduations. The first cohort of OTD students is expected to graduate at the conclusion of the 2028 semester.

The transition to the doctoral program is not expected to negatively impact the program’s current 100% pass rate on the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).

This new doctoral program would continue to be offered at the Allen College campus in McElroy Hall, at 1913 Heath St., Waterloo, Iowa.

In Remembrance of those who passed in 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marian Baderschneider</td>
<td>Class of 1961</td>
<td>April 14, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evelyn Johnson</td>
<td>Class of 1960</td>
<td>August 29, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jo Batty-George</td>
<td>Class of 1967</td>
<td>January 9, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Schmidt</td>
<td>Class of 1975</td>
<td>January 30, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Hahn</td>
<td>Founding Director of the Allen College Occupational Therapy Program</td>
<td>October 22, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Schmitz</td>
<td>Class of 1986</td>
<td>January 10, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neysa Klepfer</td>
<td>Scholarship Donor</td>
<td>April 26, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myrna Schumacher</td>
<td>Class of 1967</td>
<td>January 3, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Hunemuller</td>
<td>Class of 1957</td>
<td>February 5, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murtis Smith</td>
<td>Scholarship Donor</td>
<td>September 19, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosemary Sult</td>
<td>Class of 1975</td>
<td>July 27, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Allen College receives Last Dollar Scholar designation for ASR Program

Allen College was approved by the Iowa College Aid Commission (ICAC) to participate in the Last Dollar Scholar program for the Associate of Science in Radiography (ASR) program.

This program provides a tuition offset for students enrolled in the ASR program after all state and Federal financial aid has been applied.

Schools are eligible for participation that offer undergraduate programs that lead to associates degree or certificates in professions that are considered high need by the Iowa Workforce Development. Students need to meet eligibility criteria including either graduating from an Iowa high school or establishing residency in Iowa as determined by ICAC guidelines.

At a time when costs continue to rise, this program will provide much needed financial support for these students.
Allen College sets record for institutional scholarships awarded

**Allen College awarded more than $1M in institutional scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year. These scholarships are funded by private donors and organizations through UnityPoint Health – Allen Foundation and by institutional funds.**

Heartfelt gratitude is extended to the donors and organizations who support Allen College’s scholarship program.

*Student Impact:* “I cannot express enough gratitude for this gift as it will help me greatly to succeed in becoming a nurse. My goal in life is to be as great a nurse as my mom, who I look up to every day, and with this scholarship I can have a lessened burden in achieving that dream!” – Rachael Osterhaus, BSN Class of ’23

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**Occupational Therapy (OT) Program offers services at satellite ACE-SAP Clinic**

The OT program opened a new on-campus clinic for occupational therapy in McElroy Hall on the Allen College campus. This clinic is a satellite of the ACE-SAP Clinic located at the Salvation Army and is provided through Free Clinics of Iowa.

Drs. Sue Hoey and Katie Jo Funk, OT faculty, spearheaded the development of this clinic. Referrals are accepted as slots are available in Neuro/Post-Stroke diagnoses, low vision, coaching (diabetes management) and pediatrics.

Students have the opportunity to gain valuable experience observing and collaborating with faculty and clients.

**Multidisciplinary Simulation**

Dr. Ashley Ollendieck, nursing faculty, coordinated a multidisciplinary simulation event on October 20. The event included emergency medical technician (EMT) students from Hawkeye Community College, athletic training students from UNI and drama/theater students from Columbus High School.

The Columbus students were trained to act for the scenarios with specific medical conditions for the EMT students, athletic training students and the BSN students to appropriately treat.

Since healthcare is a team effort and nurses work with the entire care team, providing interdisciplinary opportunities for nursing students is crucial for their preparation to work in a team environment.

Another event was held November 18.

**Interprofessional ALS Caregiver Learning Lab:** OT students collaborate with speech language pathology

OT students provided education to Iowa families battling amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a fatal neurodegenerative disease through a community partnership with the ALS Association Iowa Chapter and a collaboration with the University of Northern Iowa speech language pathology program.

Students developed content and prepared hands-on learning opportunities for patients and caregivers attending either virtually or in person. Participants engaged in various educational opportunities such as safe transfers, power wheelchair basics, high tech communication and introduction to adaptive equipment for daily living tasks.

This student-led interprofessional hands-on learning opportunity is unique in the state of Iowa and has been found to be beneficial for caregivers, patients and students. Students report increased comfort level with caregiver education and demonstrate improved clinical reasoning, which prepares them to provide client-centered care in a complex healthcare environment.

**DPT faculty recognized for advanced clinical proficiency**

Dr. Carissa Stoddard was recognized by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists (ABPTS) as having demonstrated competency in specialized knowledge and advanced clinical proficiency in pediatrics. She joins only about 11% of all therapists who are ABPTS specialists in all 10 recognized specialty areas. The pediatric specialty area includes patient care of children from birth to age 21 with all possible diagnoses. Pediatric specialists are prepared to evaluate, habilitate, and rehabilitate children who have traumatic, developmental, and systemic disorders.

Dr. Stoddard joins other faculty specialists in the DPT Program at Allen College who have advanced credentials in such areas as orthopedics, vestibular rehabilitation, sports, neurology, pediatrics, manual therapy, anatomy, and leadership.

**Governor’s Volunteer Service Award**

Dr. Rus DeBonis, emeritus nursing faculty, received the Governor’s Volunteer Service Award earlier this year for outstanding commitment and service for her work with the Focus on Diabetes event held annually each fall. Dr. DeBonis was honored by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds at the event.
You can help

Shape the future of Allen College by donating to Allen College. Your generous donations will help finance special projects to enhance the quality of our education and the realm of our services. Contact Allen College or Allen Foundation to find out how you can make a difference, or donate online at www.allencollege.edu and click on Donate.

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Businesswoman

A special thank you and recognition to Dr. Crandall who will conclude his third and final term as a Trustee at the end of 2022. Dr. Crandall has been instrumental in the growth and success of Allen College for nearly a decade. During his tenure as Trustee, Allen College purchased a fourth academic building, McElroy Hall; started new programs and tracks; saw record enrollments; and more than doubled the institutional scholarship program.