



MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY

Be The Difference.

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**MARQUETTE CELEBRATES NATIONAL NURSE WEEK WITH
NEW NURSING PHD PROGRAM, NEW DEAN**

MILWAUKEE – The work of America's 2.7 million registered nurses to save lives and to maintain the health of millions of individuals is the focus of this year's "National Nurses Week," celebrated annually May 6-12 throughout the United States. This week is particularly important for Marquette University, celebrating not only the national awareness week but the launching of a new PhD program in nursing.

"There is an inadequate number of nursing faculty to educate the numbers of nurses needed to care for persons in our society," said Dr. Judith Miller, Interim Dean for the School of Nursing.

The rationale for the new nursing PhD at Marquette is a very real need for more nursing educators. Research shows that 5,832 qualified applicants were denied admission to a nursing program in the United States last year due to inadequate faculty to teach them. By 2010, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that there will be more than one million job openings for registered nurses.

"Despite the doctorate being the terminal degree for faculty teaching in baccalaureate and graduate programs, only 50% of faculty currently teaching in these programs have the requisite preparation and degree," Dr. Miller said. "The shortage of nurses in our work force is directly related to the dearth of faculty to prepare them."

MORE

MARQUETTE NURSING/ page 2

The central purpose of the new PhD program in Nursing is to prepare teacher/scholars with an emphasis on knowledge development related to vulnerable populations. Currently there are only 80 nursing doctoral programs in this country. In addition, there are 604 baccalaureate programs and 333 master's programs in nursing, all needing doctorally prepared faculty.

In addition to meeting a societal need, the unique focus is particularly congruent with Marquette University's Catholic Jesuit mission. The doctoral program will further enhance the reputation of Marquette's College of Nursing now holds, being among the top 20% of graduate programs in the nation. The program will launch this fall starting with eight admissions per year.

Lea Acord, dean and professor of the College of Nursing at Montana State University in Bozeman, Mont., was recently named the new Dean of the College of Nursing at Marquette University effective August 1. Acord will bring to Marquette 14 years of leadership experience as dean, national recognition for her work in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), and extensive knowledge gained as a reviewer for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Division of Nursing.

Marquette's College of Nursing has approximately 370 students in its undergraduate nursing program and over 160 in its graduate program. The undergraduate nursing program has received a record number of applications this year for a class of approximately 100 students. Recently, *U.S. News & World Report* placed Marquette's graduate nursing program in the top 20% in the nation.

"Nurses: Lifting Spirits, Touching Lives" is this year's theme for National Nurses Week, celebrated May 6-12 each year. National Nurses Week begins May 6 and ends on May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday. As of 1998, May 8 was designated as National Student Nurses Day. Traditionally, National Nurses Week is devoted to highlighting the diverse ways in which registered nurses, the largest health care profession, are working to improve health care.

Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university dedicated to serving God by serving our students and contributing to the advancement of knowledge. Through our mission of Faith, Excellence, Leadership and Service we strive to graduate students who are not only better educated, but better people. We provide them with the necessary training to actively Be The Difference in our world.

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