

ARCASN Annual School Report 2014-2015

Name of the School: St. Francis Xavier University

School Rep at ARCASN: Joanne Whitty-Rogers RN, PhD

1. In December 2014, 22 students graduated from the Post Degree and Accelerated Option Program, while 97 students graduated from the generic program with their BScN degree in May 2015. We anticipate another large 1st year class in September 2015.
2. One tenure track faculty was hired this year and we are in the midst of interviewing and hiring two additional tenure track faculty. One faculty member is retiring this summer. A fulltime probationary Nurse Educator position has also been posted.
3. The Department of Health and Wellness and Higher Education have been working with the Schools of Nursing and the former Health Districts now the Nova Scotia health District and IWK to develop a new Model for Collaborative Undergraduate Nursing Education. A report of the Nursing Education Review is complete. StFX has been working closely with Dalhousie University and Cape Breton University to develop a similar curriculum framework. We are planning to launch the new curriculum beginning September 2016.
4. Other initiatives include:
 - a) Educational sessions were held over the past year to assist 4th year students be prepared to write the NCLEX exams.
 - b) Consolidation practice increased from four weeks to eight weeks in the winter semester 2015 for 4th year nursing students.
 - c) A Simulation lab was developed in the winter semester and there are plans to expand simulation lab in the very near future.
 - d) Last year the School of Nursing entered into a formal agreement with the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) to become a Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO). We have begun to build partnerships and engage in research around Best Practice Guidelines.
5. Noteworthy Events:
 - The CNSA Regional Conference was hosted by StFX this year. This was a very successful student conference.

- The Committee on Black and Aboriginal Student Success continues to work on helping Aboriginal and Black students to be successful in their academic program. A workshop on Indigenous Knowledge Ally Building was held in Paqtnkek in September 2014 for Faculty and Nurse Educators.
 - Ellen (Ellie) MacFarlane, retired professor from St. Francis Xavier University was awarded the prestigious Honourary Life Membership Award, which recognized her lifetime of nursing accomplishments at the recent CRNNS AGM in Halifax.
 - Sister Veronica Matthews, a Mi'kmaq elder originally from Eskasoni, a Sister of Saint Martha, and a Registered Nurse, received an honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree at St. Francis Xavier University in May 2015.
6. Research - Many Faculty and Nurse Educators are publishing in peer-reviewed articles and chapters/books as well as engaging in research in a variety of areas such as environmental health, policy, social justice, Aboriginal health, community health, chronic disease, best practices, etc.
 7. Distant Nursing Program – The Post RN to BScN Program continues to be successful. This program is administered through the Department of Continuing and Distance Education. It is entering the 21st cycle in 2015-2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Whitty-Rogers RN, PhD
ARCASN Representative for the School of Nursing
St. Francis Xavier University