

nursing

AN INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP

Defiance College partnership with Northwest State Community College to offer a unique nursing degree

An innovative partnership between Defiance College and Northwest State Community College will seek to address a critical need for nurses in the region. The joint announcement was made earlier this year by the presidents of both schools.

The collaboration of public and private colleges will provide a unique program offering a bachelor's degree in nursing. In partnership with Northwest State, Defiance College will offer a bachelor of science in nursing in a four-year format for students with no prior college experience. Area hospitals are supporting the 1+2+1 nursing program in helping to fund nursing students. The BSN program will offer expanded career options for persons in the nursing field by combining the technical aspects of nursing with leadership skills necessary to lead in today's dynamic health care environments.

Students will take their first year at Defiance College, their second and third years at Northwest State, and then return to Defiance for their fourth and final year.

The 1+2+1 program will lead to RN (registered nurse) licensure from Northwest State followed by the BSN degree from Defiance. The two years at Northwest State will prepare students with clinical training through an associate degree in nursing. The first and fourth years at Defiance will provide baccalaureate general education requirements as well as courses in nursing leadership, management, research and community health. Students returning to DC for the fourth year must have completed the associate degree program at Northwest State, as well as successfully completed the national licensure exam for registered nurses. Last year, Northwest State students had a 100 percent pass rate on the exam.



President Wood and President Stuckey seal the agreement to form a nursing partnership while Dr. Catharine O'Connell looks on.

"We have been hoping for several years to offer a baccalaureate nursing program at Defiance because it fits so well with who we are as an institution," said Defiance president Dr. Gerald Wood. "We are excited to be able to work together with Northwest State Community College as well as hospitals in the region to meet this critical community need."

Dr. Thomas Stuckey, president of Northwest State Community College, said, "We are pleased and proud of this new program, especially the nature of Defiance College and Northwest State combining so many good ideas, the elaborate teamwork involved, and a big step forward in our continued, vigorous partnership."

The nursing program is designed to be financially affordable for students. Northwest

State will provide its full-tuition Presidential Scholarship for qualifying students during their attendance at NSCC.

In addition to the 1+2+1 program, Defiance College plans to offer a BSN completion program designed for associate degree-prepared nurses who have graduated from an accredited nursing program and have current active RN licensure. Major courses will be offered in a fast-track format with courses held one day per week to accommodate various work schedules. Some courses may be offered in a hybrid format using both online and face to face classroom instruction. General education courses and electives will also be available through Defiance's day/evening and Weekend College programs. ◆