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Nursing Students Follow God's Call

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Karen Allen

Nursing students help obstetrics nurses in Honduras as they deliver and care for newborns on one of several medical mission trips the Department of Nursing has sponsored in the past few years.

Nursing students follow God's call

With almost 50 years of impacting healthcare around the world, the Andrews University Department of Nursing continues with stellar preparation of nurses at both undergraduate and graduate levels. The conceptual framework upon which all curricula are based is "Restoration to the Image of God."

"Nursing students quickly learn that nursing is not a career, but a calling," says Karen Allen, chair of the Department of Nursing. "They learn they are called to care for and restore their fellow human beings not only to the physical, but the mental, spiritual, social and familial image of God."

In addition to impacting the local community, Andrews University nursing students have a huge impact on the world at large. For years, senior students have gone on mission trips to places such as Guam and Native

American reservations. In December, they traveled to Honduras, in partnership with Pioneer Memorial Church's Youth Ministries, and to the Caribbean, on Cruise with a Mission.

Beginning summer 2015, the Department of Nursing plans to offer a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program with an emphasis in Family Nurse Practitioner. There are three options for this program: a BS-DNP track for those with a bachelor's degree who want to be an advanced practice nurse; a MS-DNP track for nurses with a master's degree without advanced practice focus; an APRN-DNP track for advanced practice RNs with a master's degree who want to complete their clinical doctorate.

Andrews University will be the first Seventh-day Adventist nursing program to offer the BS-DNP program; this preparation will contribute to healthcare providers for mission fields far and near.

The Department of Nursing has provided graduate education since 1981. Throughout this time, it has educated students toward master's degrees in nursing administration, adult health, clinical specialist, adult nurse practitioner, nursing education and more.

These graduate programs are built upon the strong, solid undergraduate degree in nursing offered by the program since 1967. The Board pass rate at the undergraduate level is 97 percent, or higher, overall. With the change in the NCLEX-RN test in 2013, nursing programs were warned that their Board score passing levels might drop four to five percent. In actuality, the report showed a drop of nine percent overall, but the Andrews University nursing program showed an increase in their Board pass rates.

"A good nursing program is determined by service and mission outreach as well as what is said about the students as they are being educated," says Allen. "We receive positive comments

from various healthcare facilities continuously, including the following recent feedback: 'This student is the best we've had yet. He is very assertive and soaks up information like a sponge. He is very professional and asks questions for better understanding. This student performs tasks so well that he was able to take patients back on his own and put necessary information in patient records. He is ready for the real world. Great job all around!'"

Andrews University aims to prepare faithful stewards of the gifts and talents God has given each of us, including the ability to help others maintain and regain health. Students who complete the nursing program at Andrews are ready to follow God's calling to *heal the sick* (Matthew 10:8 NIV) wherever he might send them.

For more information about the Department of Nursing, visit <http://andrews.edu/nursing>, email nursing@andrews.edu, or call 269-471-3311.

Becky St. Clair, media communications manager, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication



Nursing students work with local clinics to provide preventive and basic care for local community members while on Cruise with a Mission to the Caribbean in December 2014.