Nursing Program Recommended for Five Year Accreditation

February 16, 2016

The River Valley Community College Nursing Program recently took another major step toward regaining national accreditation. The Nursing Program hosted site visitors from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and the New Hampshire Board of Nursing from February 10-12. At the completion of the visit, the ACEN visitors recommended initial accreditation for five years finding the program’s self-study report in compliance with ACEN standards.

Dr. Patricia Shinn, Nursing Department Chair, said “I am so pleased the ACEN visitors recognized the hard work we put into revising the nursing curriculum. As we move forward, this program has the potential to become one of the strongest in the area.”

This recommendation will go forward to the ACEN Board for review in June and final determination in July. After a final decision from the ACEN Board, the nursing students graduating May 2016 will be grandfathered in.

"I am very pleased with the tremendous changes that have taken place with our Nursing Program and as I shared with our site visitors, our goal is to have one of the strongest Nursing Programs in the country", said Dr. Alicia Harvey-Smith, the President of River Valley Community College. "Upon my arrival as President of RVCC, I learned of the College's unfortunate loss of its National Nursing Accreditation through ACEN. Knowing the importance of this program to our students and community, it was critical to regain our national re-accreditation and achieve this important industry recognition."

The 271 page self-study report prepared by Dr. Shinn and the nursing faculty was the focus of the visit. The ACEN visitors spent three days clarifying, verifying and amplifying the information, as well touring the College facilities in Claremont and Keene to observe nursing students in class, skills laboratory and at clinical facilities.

President Harvey-Smith further stated that the "excellent work of Dr. Shinn and her team are highly commended for their efforts to improve and elevate River Valley's Nursing Program.”

The RVCC Nursing program is still accepting applications for fall 2016 in Keene and in Claremont. For more information and to apply, contact Kathy Aldrich in the Admission Office (603) 542-7744 ext. 5323.

River Valley Community College is one of seven colleges in the Community College System of New Hampshire, offering over thirty-nine associate degree and certificate programs in Claremont, Keene, Lebanon, and Online.