Nursing Program Receives Quality, TNA Awards

Walters State’s Nursing Program has been recognized for its academic excellence and for its reputation as an outstanding employer. The program was a co-recipient of the prestigious Tennessee Board of Regents Academic Excellence and Quality Award during the TBR’s recent quarterly meeting in Jackson. The nursing program at Jackson State Community College was also honored. In addition to academic excellence, the award recognized Walters State’s ability to meet the healthcare needs of the area by producing high quality and innovative nurses.

In presenting Walters State with the Academic Excellence Award, the TBR commended the college for increasing access to the nursing program during a time of limited financial resources.

“Our goal is to produce competent, well-prepared nurses who make significant contributions to the healthcare field and the quality of life in upper East Tennessee,” said Marty Rucker, dean of Walters State’s Health Programs division.

“The TBR award recognizes our ability to meet that goal.” The program was also named Outstanding Employer of the Year by the Tennessee Nurses Association. That award recognizes the program’s “leadership and support for the advancement of nursing and nursing programs,” said Wanda Hooper, TNA president.

Walters State’s nursing program, which is fully accredited by the National League for Nursing, has become the college’s flagship program and one of the nation’s leaders in producing nurses. Last year, the American Association of Community Colleges ranked the nursing program No. 52 out of the more than 700 nursing programs that offer associate degrees in nursing.

Over 2,600 individuals have graduated from the program since its inception in 1975. This year, 270 students are enrolled. The program has a 95 percent placement rate for its graduates.

The nursing program has 14 full-time faculty members, all having master’s degrees in nursing.

Study Measures

Walters State Community College is a significant force in the economic vitality of upper East Tennessee, according to a recent five-year study of the college’s economic impact on the area. From 1997 to 2002, Walters State contributed over $403 million to the region’s economy – an average of $80.7 million per year.

The study, which was conducted by educational consultant Dr. Fred Martin of Knoxville, measured the college’s economic impact on 16 counties in terms of business volume, jobs created and personal income earned.

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Walters State’s contributions to the region’s economic base, Campbell says it doesn’t show the intangible impact the college has on the quality of life in the area.

CALENDAR

December 12
Fall Semester Ends

January 12
Spring Semester Begins

March 1-7
Spring Break
ATTENTION: WSCC ALUMNI

To stay informed of all the great things happening at your alma mater, sign up to receive The Hub online. Simply send your e-mail address to Anna.Shoup@ws.edu.

FACULTY FOOTNOTES

Marty Rucker, associate professor and dean, Division of Health Programs, spoke about issues in Associate Degree programs at the National Organization for Associate Degree Programs, Tennessee Chapter, fall conference in Knoxville.

Jerry Maloy, associate professor of Music and Theatre, has been named to the East Tennessee Regional Arts and Culture Coalition. The group is dedicated to promoting arts and cultures and includes representatives from 13 counties.

Laura Ritter, associate professor of Music, served as chair for the Repertoire and Standards Committee for Two-Year Colleges at this year’s American Choral Director’s Convention in Knoxville.

Missy Hopper, head of Developmental Education, Reading, spent three weeks in China speaking about the American higher education system at several Chinese universities.

Kay Moneyhun, professor of Mathematics, hosted gifted sixth graders for a day of math exploration at the Greeneville/Greene County Center for Higher Education.
The Walters State Basic Law Enforcement Academy graduated its 50th class of future public-safety officers in November. The class brings the total number of individuals who have graduated from the academy to 2,000.

Established in 1986, the Walters State academy has experienced tremendous growth and is widely recognized as one of the premier training centers for law enforcement officers. A few years ago a former associate director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who was conducting a formal review of the college's Criminal Justice Program concluded that it was “one of the top 25 programs in the United States.”

“Many people deserve credit for the academy’s success, such as A.M. ‘Buster’ Brown (former chair of the Public Safety Division) and Fred Phillips (commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety) who were instrumental in establishing the program. And all of our faculty are hired not just for their academic abilities but for their leadership and experience in the law enforcement field,” said Dr. Jack Campbell, Walters State president.

The Walters State academy, which was the first and only one in the state to offer academic credit in addition to state-mandated certification, offers law enforcement officers the opportunity to train close to home.

Prior to the academy’s opening, local officials had to travel to Donelson in order to receive the Police Officers’ Standards and Training (POST) certification required of all new law enforcement recruits during their first year of employment. Officers stay in dormitory facilities at the Greeneville Center and receive instruction in firearms, defensive and tactical driving, community policing, criminal law, first aid, CPR and physical conditioning.

Walters State will benefit from the recent $2.7 million sale of a 38-acre tract of real estate in Pigeon Forge.

This news was presented to foundation trustees at their fall board meeting on Oct. 20.

The 38 acres of real estate were donated to the college to fund a charitable remainder unitrust established by long-time Walters State supporters and honorary trustees Mary Ruth Cutshaw and her sister, the late Jessie Cates, both of Sevier County.

The trust will be administered by the foundation, which serves as the trust’s trustee and is also the remainder beneficiary.

Trustees also learned during a college update by Walters State President Dr. Jack Campbell that despite fewer state dollars for higher education, the college is sustaining high quality academic programs and services.

He noted that the college's graduates exceed the national mean on a standardized test used to measure a student's general-education knowledge. And Walters State students who take licensure exams have very high pass rates. A total of 91 percent of Walters State students passed their state and national licensure exams on the first try, compared to state and national averages of 80 percent.

Campbell told trustees that all academic programs eligible for accreditation at the college are accredited and that Walters State has over 20 articulation agreements with other colleges and universities.

Also reported during the meeting was the news that the college's Sevier County Campus, which has experienced a significant growth in enrollment over the last several years, had a record enrollment of over 1,300 students. That enrollment represents an 11 percent increase over last year.

Trustees learned that a new roof for the Greeneville/Greene County Center for Higher Education was recently completed and fund-raising efforts to replace two boilers at the center are underway in Greene County. Enrollment at the Greeneville Center is up 18 percent over last year.

It was also reported that since the foundation's annual meeting in May, over $273,000 has been donated in gifts of $500 or larger. The foundation also raised over $65,000 for academic scholarships during its 2002-03 Annual Fund campaign.

The Walters State Foundation, which is considered one of the most successful foundations in the country among colleges of Walters State's size, has a current fund balance of over $10 million.
Senators/Lady Senators 03-04
Home Schedule

Dec. 5 LS vs. Georgia Perimeter, 6 p.m.
Dec. 6 LS vs. Volunteer State, 6 p.m.
Jan. 7 S vs. Mayland, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14 LS vs. Spartanburg Methodist, 6 p.m.
Jan. 17 LS vs. Columbia State, 2 p.m.
Jan. 18 S vs. Faulkner State, 2 p.m.
Jan. 21 LS vs. Chattanooga State, 6 p.m.
Jan. 31 LS vs. Hiwassee, 6 p.m.
Feb. 7 LS vs. Motlow State, 2 p.m.
Feb. 11 LS vs. Roane State, 6 p.m.
Feb. 18 LS vs. Cleveland State, 6 p.m

Senators, Lady Senators Ready for Tough 2003-04 Conference Action

Both the Senators and the Lady Senators enter the 2003-04 season with hopes of repeating and even surpassing last season's successes.

All American Jerry Nichols returns from a redshirt season to lead the Senators. Last season, the Senators went 20-11 and won the Eastern Division of the TJCCAA. Carlyle lost some of the talent from that team and says his main concern with recruiting was to build as much depth as possible to help cope with the physical style of play in the conference. He succeeded and now can go as many as three deep in most positions.

“Overall, I feel like we have had a great recruiting class. We recruited someone in all positions, and that will provide us with great depth in all our spots.”

New recruits expected to contribute early include Brandon Bradley, an All State performer from University High in Johnson City.

Coach Dave Kragel's Lady Senators return only five players from last year's 24-7 season. Kragel focused much of his recruiting energy on finding talented forwards. He was able to land five players that can contribute immediately. Kragel will be counting on this young talent to help match last season, which saw the team stopped just one win short of a national tournament appearance.

“Our schedule is a tough one, but I set it up in a way to get us ready for the conference games down the road,” Kragel said. “Our league is as tough this year as it was last season, so playing tough games early will hopefully help us out later in the year.”

Nichols to Play for Div. I Arkansas State

Senators standout Jerry Nichols will continue his intercollegiate basketball career at Arkansas State University.

Nichols, a 6-foot-5-inch sophomore guard from Memphis, is averaging 19 points a game this year. During his freshman year, he averaged 22 points and was named MVP of the TJCCAA/NJCAA Region VII tournament. He was also named to the NJCAA National All-Tournament team.

“Jerry is probably the best player who has ever played here,” said Senators head coach Bill Carlyle. “He has a fierce drive to compete, is always ready to play and is a very unselfish player.”