

# Nursing program awarded grant

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The Missouri Department of Higher Education recognized Truman State University's nursing program with a \$150,000 grant this fall.

Nursing Department Chair Stephanie Powelson said when sufficient funding was available, the Missouri State Board of Nursing issued a request for proposals, which participants usually have a month to complete and send in. Powelson said this year, because of summer schedules and because the request for proposals came out around July 4, the nursing department only had about two weeks to complete the proposal. The Missouri Department of Higher Education oversees the process of receiving the proposals and awarding the grants, she said. Powelson said this is the third grant the nursing department received from the Missouri State Board of Nursing — each one for \$150,000.

Powelson said they began announcing grant recipients in September, and the money was released in mid-October.

"I think we had a good start because we've received this kind of grant before so we had an idea of the data they wanted to support it," Powelson said.

Powelson said the nursing program is limited by four areas. One was funding, she said, because Truman is a public university and can't easily increase tuition — the second was faculty because hiring qualified nursing faculty is a challenge — the third was clinical sites because Truman is in northeast Missouri and competes with other nursing programs for clinical

sites — and the fourth was technology because the program has to continue to expand and update technology.

Powelson said the nursing department addressed one main objective in the proposal which was to increase the clinical faculty and staff positions to support students the department has and growth of the department. She said the department asked for two part-time staff positions — an additional person in the nursing lab and a person to help with clinical site coordination. The nursing department has more than 50 clinical contracts, she said, including contracts in St. Louis, Columbia, Hannibal, Kirksville and Kansas City. She said it takes a fair amount of coordination to communicate with the clinical sites and ensure expectations are met for each facility.

Students need to complete approximately 850 clinical hours to earn their degree, Powelson said. These hours are completed at any of Truman's contracted clinical sites.

"We think it's good for the students to have some other kinds of experiences," Powelson said. "They get to see what it's like to be in a small, medium or large facility and they get to see, 'Do I enjoy acute care? Do I enjoy home health? Do I see myself as a psychiatric nurse?'"

The first and second grants awarded to the nursing program focused on the Accelerated BSN program, Powelson said, which is for students who already have a bachelor's degree in another field but also want to be a nursing major. Students can finish a nursing major in 15 months once they've finished their prerequisite courses, she said.



Photo by Courtney Kauffman/ TMN

The simulation lab contains many technological devices needed to create a realistic experience for students in their modules and simulations. Part of the money from the grant will go toward keeping the technology up to date.

There's a huge demand for nursing programs, Powelson said, with usually more applicants than can be accepted — the nursing program probably has four applicants for every available seat. But she said they aren't trying to expand the program because they want to make sure it's an excellent program and that it takes in good students and prepares future nurses to be exceptional in providing patient care.

Pamela Melvin, Nursing Simulation Center coordinator, said she coordinates many of the skills modules, runs simulations and supports the other faculty when they run simulations. Melvin said she also schedules activities in the NSC, maintains inventory, orders supplies and fixes issues with the lab when necessary.

"There are lots of things we could do, or do over and make it better, so we are continually assessing what we're doing and making changes and trying to improve it," Melvin said.

Melvin said the department is consistently looking at outcomes and trying to incorporate experiences students don't receive in clinicals into lab simulations.

Modules in the past have just been basic skills which students perform Melvin said, but they are moving toward simulation-like scenarios. She said simulation scenarios allow for a more realistic experience where students have to take into account multiple scenarios, like interacting with the patient, using critical thinking, being aware of safety issues and using technology.

"We try to be as realistic as possible working with Manikins," Melvin said. "We've also even talked about using real people from the community to come in and be a patient."

Kendra Jones, nursing technology coordinator, said she has been working at Truman since June 2016. Jones said she also works as a hospice nurse and that it is interesting to be involved in the student education aspect of the field.

Jones said she helps with a variety of things, including working with the new Pyxis machine, a machine that provides medication and information about medication. Jones ensures medications are up to date, stocked and appropriate for the modules and simulations students are doing. She said she also makes sure equipment and Manikins are up to date and sometimes helps with simulations if the faculty needs assistance.

She said the Manikins have pre-programmed scenarios which can test students, or they can be programmed however the instructor wishes. The lab has Manikins of babies, children and adults to provide a range of experiences to students, she said, all of which provide different functionalities.

"[The students] do modules every week, during the modules they are learning about different nursing skills," Jones said. "Hopefully with more staff it'll make it more feasible to do more of these activities that we like to do."



Photo by Courtney Kauffman/ TMN

Above is one of the comprehensive rooms students use to complete more detailed simulations on Manikins. Professors record the sessions to give visual and verbal feedback to students after modules and simulations each week.

## Throwback Thursday: A look at art at Truman

To tie in with our cover story about #15forArt, we flipped through our archives to see what else has happened in Truman State University's art world — and we found some interesting events ranging from exhibitions in the University Art Gallery to artists-in-residence on campus.

In the Sept. 18, 1975 issue, two different articles discussed events on campus and in the community. An article on the Roten Gallery said, "The Fine Arts Division is sponsoring an exhibit and sale of approximately 600 original prints from the Ferdinand Roten Galleries collection in the SUB Activities room." The exhibit featured prints from Picasso, Goya, Renoir and Hogarth that students could purchase for \$10-\$100. An article on the second annual Red Barn Arts and Crafts Festival announced the festival would take place Oct. 4-5 and "some of the items to be shown include: oil paintings, stoneware, painting on old barn boards, fabric collages, beaded jewelry and a variety of others."

In the Oct. 9, 1975 issue, John Balsley, then an assistant art professor at Drake University, had a faculty exhibit in the Art Gallery that included sculptures and paintings.

But not only faculty had exhibits, according to the Dec. 4, 1975 issue. "Art students in 100 and 200 level courses will open an exhibit of their work tonight at 7 p.m. in the Art Gallery ... the artwork will be for sale with detailed information included in the opening night program."

Even non-faculty and non-students had work featured at the Art Gallery. "The exhibit of photo portfolios of Ansel Adams, known for his outstanding nature photography, opened Wednesday Nov. 5," according to an article in the Nov. 6, 1975 issue. "The portfolios include black and white photographs taken of the National Parks and Monuments of the United States." And the Jan. 29, 1976 issue said, "The University Art Gallery will house a collection

of art from major American printmakers throughout February. The collection, entitled 'American Prints from Wood,' is being shown. Although the collection contains 115 prints, the gallery can only hold about 40 'comfortably' therefore the exhibit will be hung in two parts." This was the first Smithsonian Institute exhibit shown since the gallery opening during 1973, according to the article.

But more has happened on campus in the art world than just exhibits in the art gallery. According to the Feb. 26, 1976 issue, the mural on the third floor of the SUB was painted by William Unger. "The mural is a compilation of several murals by the late Thomas Hart Benton, Missouri's most noted painter. In keeping with the University's Committee's wishes, and true to Benton's regionalistic style of painting Unger has composed a continuous scene of America's foundation and development. The eastern and first section revolves around our country's birth and western expansion. The second section is more regionalistic in nature, relating mainly to Missouri's history. In the final section, taken from a Benton mural in Massachusetts, Unger sums up the American story by showing a young son leaving his farm home for a future elsewhere." Unger began work early September 1975 and spent approximately 12-15 hours a week on it with hopes of completing it by July 4, 1976 — in time for the bicentennial celebration.

There have also been artists-in-residence at Truman, including American printmaker Harry Krug, who displayed his collection on campus in March 1976. He remained on campus until April 2, 1976, and "during his tenure here, Krug [gave] demonstrations, [instructed] art students and [endeavored] to create a silk screen print," according to the March 25, 1976 issue.

Truman has had a rich history in displaying art from a variety of individuals — a tradition we doubt will be changing any time soon.

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