



For Immediate Release

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State of Utah approves Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions.

The State of Utah approved the new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions (RMUoHP). This is the first DNP program in the State of Utah and one of a few in the United States offering a bridge program for advanced practice nurses.

The DNP program is designed specifically for current advanced practice nurses (nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists, and nurse midwives) with a master's degree. The DNP program is structured to prepare advanced clinical leaders to effect change through evidence-based practice. This degree is consistent with the recent move by the nursing profession towards the DNP as the entry-level degree by 2015 for advanced practice nurses.

Dr. Roger Green DNP, ARNP, FNP, BC, FAANP, and Dr. Sandy Pennington, PhD, RN, are the Graduate Program Directors. Dr. Green said "This is an exciting and challenging time for advanced practice nurses in our current health care system. The national trend for advanced practice nurses to return to universities to obtain Doctoral education is changing the delivery of nursing care and preparing graduates who are expert clinicians as well as leaders in the health care system."

"This program demonstrates a commitment to quality nursing education and provides a limited-residency option for completing a clinical degree in Nursing. The curriculum represents our responsiveness to the needs of all advanced practice nurses and recognizes their irreplaceable role in health care," added Dr. Pennington.

Applications are currently being accepted for the inaugural class starting in March 2006. This 18-month DNP program is a limited-residency model that enables advanced practice clinicians to continue to work in their current positions while obtaining a doctoral degree.

"RMUoHP is proud to offer this state-of-the-art nursing program and is confident that its graduates will become leaders in the nursing profession" said Dr. Richard P. Nielsen, President of Rocky Mountain University. "We have assembled a team of prominent nursing professionals to develop this premier program for advanced practice nurses."

About Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions:

RMUoHP offers masters and doctoral degrees in health sciences to athletic trainers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. RMUoHP's programs are intended primarily for those seeking specialized training in advanced clinical, research, education, and administrative skills.

For more information about Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions, call toll free 866-780-4107, visit www.rmuohp.edu, or email office@rmuohp.edu.