Graduate Certificate in Health and Aging Services to be offered this fall

A new graduate certificate program aimed at increasing the number of people becoming licensed and proficient as health and aging services administrators will be offered at UW-Eau Claire beginning this fall.

The graduate certificate program in health and aging services administration will help meet the future management needs of the profession by assisting people with previous education and work experience in advancing their skills and potentially becoming licensed as administrators, said Dr. Doug Olson, assistant professor of public health professions.

The demand is growing for well-educated administrators in the health and aging services profession because the nation’s population is aging, there are significantly more alternative living options for seniors, chronic care conditions increasingly influence the health system, and the health care industry is more quickly moving patients from hospitals to rehabilitation-type facilities, Olson said.

“There has been a huge increase in the number of independent living, assisted living, and other similar rehabilitation and recuperative facilities,” said Dr. Jennifer Johs-Artisensi, assistant professor of public health professions. “There aren’t enough appropriately educated graduates to meet the leadership needs of those facilities.”

To qualify for the certificate program, students must have a bachelor’s degree and at least two years of professional work experience, preferably in management or health care fields. Registered nurses enrolled in UW-Eau Claire’s nursing programs also can participate in the certificate program, Johs-Artisensi said. The program is planning on only accepting a limited number of students the first year.

The program requires students to complete modules in quality service, resource management, human resources and health services leadership. The program has regionally recognized business and consulting firms serving as educational partners with each of the modules. The partners are Pathway Health Services, Wipfli, MRA Associates and Zimmerman Communi-Care.

Students also must design and complete a field project, applying the skills and knowledge they learned in the program.

The excellence of UW-Eau Claire’s undergraduate program in health care administration was considered when the certificate program was developed, Olson said. Undergraduate students can take the courses during their required yearlong practicums, he said, noting that faculty and students are excited about the enhanced educational opportunity, which will ensure that graduates are even better prepared to meet the needs of the health care field as it exists today.

“By combining the certificate students and the undergraduate students, we’ll have students in age from their 20s to their 50s and beyond coming together four times a year,” Olson said. “It will be an interesting dynamic. I think they’ll learn a great deal from each other and get even more from the program.”

This program is supported by the Wisconsin Health Care Association and the Wisconsin Association of Homes and Services for the Aged. It has been approved as a special educational program of study by the Wisconsin and Minnesota Licensing Boards for Long-Term Care Administrators.

For more information about the graduate certificate program, contact Meredith Wolf at (715) 836-3543 or wolfm@uwec.edu.
CHASE sponsors 2004 Spring Banquet awards

More than 140 people gathered to attend the annual Health Care Administration/CHASE Spring Banquet, “Stepping up to the Plate: Quality Leaders for Quality Care,” April 1 at the Plaza Inn & Suites in Eau Claire. We were pleased to welcome Mary Tellis-Nayak, President/CEO of the American College of Health Care Administrators. The following individuals received distinguished service awards at the 2004 Spring Banquet.

Dr. Robert Kane, Chair in Long-Term Care and Aging at the University of Minnesota, was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for his commitment to the advancement of the health care administration program at UW-Eau Claire. Dr. Kane was one of the advocates who helped to shape and steer the creation of the Center for Health and Aging Services Excellence at the UW-Eau Claire.

Carissa Behnke, a senior health care administration major from Reedsville, received the program’s Distinguished Student Award, recognizing her exceptional performance and contributions to the health care administration program. She is in the health care administration student organization and was chair of the 2003 Spring Banquet Committee. She currently is in practicum at Brewster Village in Appleton.

Karen Robinson received the Distinguished Alumni Award, recognizing her distinguished service to the field in a way that brings credit to her and the university. A graduate of the health care administration program, she is the CEO of Chippewa Manor in Chippewa Falls. She has been a leader in the Wisconsin Health Care Association, served on the state’s licensing board for long-term care administrators and is a member of the CHASE board of advisers. Additionally, Chippewa Manor is a practicum site for UW-Eau Claire students.

Many scholarships were awarded at this year’s spring banquet. Logan Geist, a health care administration junior and treasurer of the ACHCA student organization for 2003-04 was the first recipient of the Gene Decker Scholarship award. Recipients of the John and Mary Gerberich scholarship were Kelly Amundson, Nathan Pearson, Matt Mauthe and Holly Kaiser. The winners of this year’s Extendicare Scholarship were Ashley Misner and Christina Gamaldi. The new Beverly scholarship recipients were Catherine Hinz and Stephanie Ojibway.

Make sure to mark your calendar for next year’s banquet scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2005. Our featured keynote speaker will be Steve Chies, senior vice president of Benedictine Health System and Chair of the American Health Care Association. The banquet will be held in Eau Claire.
Fourth annual Aging Summit a success

The Center for Health and Aging Services Excellence, along with AARP Wisconsin, the Advisors on Gerontological Education, AgeAdvantAge, Inc., Community Health Partnership and the Northern Area Agency on Aging, Inc., sponsored the fourth annual Aging Summit, “It Takes A Village: The Impact of Aging on Our Cities and Towns—Generating Solutions and Ideas that Work,” on May 7.

The goal of the Aging Summit was to promote and discuss interdisciplinary perspectives on the influence that the baby boom population will have on our community’s infrastructure of business systems, health care and government bodies. Dr. Jim Bensen, president emeritus of Bemidji State University, gave a keynote address titled “Reach Out and Touch Tomorrow” and “Getting a Grip, Making Things Happen.”

More than 130 guests attended this year’s event. Attendees of the program received 4 CEUs for four hours of instruction from UW-Eau Claire Continuing Education in cooperation with UW-Extension.

Students Represent UW-Eau Claire

This past spring, CHASE sent two health care administration students, Brandi Kollmansberger and Holly Kaiser, to represent the UW-Eau Claire’s health care administration program at the American College of Health Care Administrators 2004 Annual Conference and Exposition in Columbus, Ohio. As representatives of UW-Eau Claire they hosted and attended sessions dealing with current trends and issues in long-term care.

Organizational changes under way

This August, Faculty at the UW-Eau Claire unanimously voted to support proposed organizational changes that would eliminate one college, create two new colleges and change the names of several departments at the university.

UW-Eau Claire faculty voted to:

- Eliminate the College of Professional Studies, which consists of the schools of nursing, education, and human sciences and services.
- Eliminate the School of Human Sciences and Services and move departments within that school to other colleges.
- Rename the School of Nursing the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The new college will include the departments of nursing, adult health nursing, family health nursing and public health professions.
- Rename the department of allied health professions the department of public health professions.

Programs included in public health professions include music therapy, health care administration and environmental public health.

All changes will go into effect immediately after the Regents’ approval during its September meeting.

Thank you to our guest faculty

The following individuals are helping “raise the bar” for the health care administration program by sharing their time and expertise.

- Tim Allen, Assistant Administrator at Sacred Heart Hospital
- Robert Armitage, Senior Consultant, Larson Allen Companies
- Kasey Benson, Communications, Sacred Heart Hospital
- Cathy Bergland, Vice President, Presbyterian Homes
- Randy Bestul, Administrator, Syverson Home
- David Brenne, Manager, Wipfli Ullrich Bertelson
- Joe Bronner, Regional Field Operations Director, State Surveyor, WI Department of Health and Family Services
- Loyd Chandler, Hillary Emberson and Curt Romine, Certified Nursing Assistants, Syverson Home
- John Dickey, COO, Luther Midlife
- Jim Diegnan, Administrator, Dove Health Care Center
- Margaret Gilkison, Professor, UW-Eau Claire Political Science
- Jim Ignarski, Regional Director, Care Partners Assisted Living
- Eric Jamelske, Assistant Professor, UW-Eau Claire Economics
- Jennifer Kane, Program Director, Roitenberg Family Assisted Living Residence
- Robert Kane, M.D., Professor, University of Minnesota
- Mike Kittelson, CEO, Blair Health Care Center
- John Keefe, President, Keefe Assoc.
- Kevin Larson, Administrator, Spring Valley Health Care Center
- Janet Lesniewski, Benefit Specialist, Eau Claire County Dept. of Aging
- Larry Lester, Nursing Home Consultant, Wipfli Ullrich Bertelson
- Phillip Machmeier, Resident at Dove Health Care
- Dinah Martin, Development Associate/Special Projects Coordinator, St. Therese Home
- Dean Mertz, Vice President of Human Resources, Good Samaritan Society
- Mike Metcalfe, Western Division Regional Director, Marshfield Clinic
- Tim Middendorf, Regional Director of Operations, Board of Social Ministry
- Joe Morin, Assistant Professor, UW-Eau Claire Special Education
- Jay Peterson, Vice-President of Development, Lutheran Social Services
- Crystal Potter, Administrator at Oakwood Gardens
- Sandra Potthoff, Associate Professor, University of Minnesota
- Brian Purtell, Director of Legal Services for Wisconsin Health Care Association
- Dianne Rhein, Regional Planner, Age AdvantAge, Inc.
- Karen Robinson, CEO/Administrator, Chippewa Manor
- Stacy Suchla, Assistant Administrator, GrandView Care Center
- Bob Von Haden, Former Partner, Wipfli, Ullrich, Bertelson and Eau Claire City Council Member
- Melissa Walthall, Administrator, Parkview Care Center
- Kimera Way, Executive Director of Development, UW-Eau Claire Foundation

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Support the CHASE Advancement Fund

The Center for Health and Aging Services Excellence welcomes and invites your support. Private gifts and grants from individuals, organizations and foundations are welcome as CHASE pursues its goals to enhance learning opportunities for UW-Eau Claire health care administration students. Additionally, this fund encourages an applied research agenda, markets the health and aging services field as a noble profession, promotes alternative regional educational programs for adult learners, and bridges the gap between associations and university programs.

Your contribution to the CHASE Advancement Fund will be gratefully accepted by the UW-Eau Claire Foundation, Inc. You will receive a receipt for tax purposes and be recognized in the Foundation's annual honor roll of donors. Most important, your gift will enable the department to continue to build upon its reputation for excellence and to provide future generations the same quality education you received.

Please use this form to send in your contribution and know that you are making a difference in the future of health and aging services.

Enclosed, please find my contribution of $________ to the UW-Eau Claire Foundation. I would like my contribution to be added to the CHASE Advancement Fund.

Name: ____________________________________________

Please send my tax receipt to the following address:
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CHASE NEWS is edited by Meredith Wolf and is published semi-annually.