The Academic Year 2012-2013 is a busy one at The Valley Foundation School of Nursing!

Our new curriculum will be fully implemented in Spring 2013, and faculty and students are enthused about the changes. Nationally implemented Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) Standards have been incorporated throughout the curriculum, and some of the course sequences have been changed. The former “Process” classes have been restructured as “Professional Role Development” courses, and emphasize communication, professionalism, and critical thinking. Nursing Research has moved from the last to the second semester to facilitate students’ use of evidence-based practice and scholarly research as they progress through the program.

The Clinical Simulation Program supports The Valley Foundation School of Nursing’s educational mission using simulation to enhance the curriculum at all student levels to foster experiential learning in a safe environment. The faculty utilizes simulation in exciting and innovative ways to strengthen the quality of nursing education and enhance clinical competency and patient safety. Each semester, in the School's recently expanded lab, over 400 students participate in high-fidelity simulations designed to simulate clinical situations in acute care, maternal / child, community and mental health settings in a special mock apartment. Additional students and faculty from other disciplines are working side by side with our faculty and students to promote interprofessional education. The Clinical Simulation Program provides opportunities for nursing students to apply clinical knowledge and practice skills in a supportive and controlled setting. Special emphasis is placed on safety, cultural competency and compassionate care.

The collaborative CSU Fresno and San Jose State University Doctor of Nursing practice program (NorCal DNP) began this fall with a cohort of 35 master’s prepared nurses participating in this online program. The program was instituted to serve a dual purpose of meeting the populations' needs in an increasingly complex health care environment and addressing the looming faculty shortage. The program differs from the traditional nursing doctorate program because of its strong focus on the advanced practice of nurses. The first cohort is scheduled to graduate in the spring of 2014. Recruitment is beginning for cohort two to begin their studies fall 2013. Check our website for details.

Of course the California budget cuts continue to influence our operations. Fiscal resources that support faculty and staff positions are tight. Equipment and supply budgets are limited, and we depend on our support community for help in maintaining the highest quality of Nursing education for all of our students. Your generous donations make all the difference during these most challenging times. The School of Nursing, our students, the communities we serve, our patients and clients are positively affected by every generous donation. We cannot thank you enough! Keep in touch. We would love to hear from you.

Jayne Cohen, PhD, RN, WHNP-BC
Director and Professor