



Thursday, March 28, 2002

School of Nursing looks to the future

Oakland University's **School of Nursing (SON)** will remain an independent unit of the university, according to Virinder Moudgil, interim vice president for academic affairs and provost.

"It is my pleasure to inform you that I will be forwarding my recommendations to President Russi that the School of Nursing remain an independent unit of the university," Moudgil wrote in an e-mail message to SON faculty.

Moudgil called the decision to maintain the SON as an independent unit a major structural decision for Oakland University with important implications for the future.

"This is really a historic development in OU's history," Moudgil said. "We have a unique opportunity to be a major partner in the health care delivery industry throughout Michigan and beyond. Now, it's time we all roll up our sleeves and get to work."

Moudgil held several meetings with SON faculty over the past few months to seek the advice of those on the front lines of providing OU students with a quality nursing education. Moudgil characterized the decision not to merge the SON with the School of Health Sciences as an important one for the entire campus community.

"The School of Nursing is an important partner in OU's academic community," Moudgil said. "It offers an outstanding program to our students, which in turn leads to effective services for the university and the community. Moreover, there is a serious shortage of nurses in Michigan and nationwide, and we're attempting to address this critical need and looking forward to providing quality nurses to help alleviate this crisis."

Moudgil also announced that interim Dean Kathleen Emrich will remain in that position until a search for a new dean is completed. A national search will commence next fall, and the new dean will take office in August 2004. The search will include the input of SON faculty.

"I am confident that in the interim under Dr. Emrich's leadership you will continue to be a productive and cohesive faculty," Moudgil wrote in his e-mail message.

Moudgil praised Emrich for her strong leadership over the past two years as interim dean.

"Under Dr. Emrich's leadership, we have increased our collaborations in the community and with major health care providers throughout metropolitan Detroit," Moudgil said. "In addition, having Dr. Emrich remain as interim dean for the next two years will provide stability and will further strengthen our partnerships. She will also play a key role in the transition in 2004."

SUMMARY

Oakland University's School of Nursing (SON) will remain an independent unit of the university, according to Virinder Moudgil, interim vice president for academic affairs and provost.

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