CNE opens surgical weight loss program

PROVIDENCE – Care New England Health System recently (CNE) introduced a comprehensive surgical weight loss program offering procedures including the lap band, sleeve gastrectomy and gastric bypass.

The Center for Surgical Weight Loss program will be directed by JEANNINE GIOVANNI, MD, a board-certified general surgeon with advanced training in bariatric surgery and extensive experience here in Rhode Island.

Dr. Giovanni completed her surgical training at Boston Medical Center and a fellowship in bariatric surgery at Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford, CT. She has practiced since 2005 and has performed more than 1,000 laparoscopic bariatric procedures.

URI receives one of first Future of Nursing Scholars grants to support students seeking PhDs

KINGSTON – The University of Rhode Island’s College of Nursing is one of only 14 nursing schools nationwide to be among the first to receive a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to increase the number of nurses holding doctor of philosophy degrees.

The Future of Nursing Scholars program, which is providing $150,000 to URI over three years, also received major support from the Rhode Island Foundation, United Health Foundation, Independence Blue Cross Foundation, and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. The Future of Nursing Scholars program plans to support up to 100 Ph.D. nursing candidates during its first two years.

As an inaugural grantee of the Future of Nursing Scholars program, URI’s College of Nursing has selected Pamela McCue, the chief executive officer of the Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter School, to receive financial support, mentoring and leadership development during the three years of her doctoral program. McCue receives $75,000, and the College of Nursing provides a $25,000 match in the form of a graduate assistantship. An additional scholarship will be awarded later this year.

Mary Sullivan, interim dean of URI’s College of Nursing, said such support will help students move more quickly through URI’s PhD program, which is critical because numerous experts and studies have said the key factor in having enough nurses to address an impending nationwide shortage is the lack of instructors with doctorates.

“Typically, nurses enter PhD programs later than other graduate students so their scholarly and scientific careers are shorter,” Sullivan said. “We have responded to this need by streamlining our program and committing to supporting our students so they finish the program.”

URI-Lifespan team up to graduate dozens in R.N. to B.S. program

Nurses continue working while earning bachelor’s degree

KINGSTON – With big changes in the health care industry today, registered nurses are looking for ways to further their education to stay informed. The University of Rhode Island and Lifespan are teaming up to provide that opportunity.

Dozens of nurses from Rhode Island and Massachusetts boosted their professional careers recently by earning their bachelor’s degrees in nursing, thanks to a successful collaboration between URI and Lifespan.

The 61 students awarded degrees Aug. 21 were already registered nurses, which required either two years of study to earn an associate’s degree or a three-year hospital diploma. All the nurses studied an additional two to three years to get their bachelor of science degree.

URI started offering the program through the College of Nursing 12 years ago with The Miriam Hospital. That partnership led to an expansion three years ago to include all Lifespan hospitals, including Rhode Island Hospital, Hasbro Children’s Hospital, Newport Hospital, Bradley Hospital, as well as The Miriam.

The nurses who received bachelor’s degrees all work at Lifespan hospitals. They continued working there four days a week and took classes one day a week at URI’s Alan Shawn Feinstein campus in Providence. The partnership with Lifespan is thriving, in part, because it allows the nurses to keep working while studying.

For more information about the R.N. to B.S. program at URI, contact Diane Martins, associate professor of nursing at the University, at 401-874-2766 or dcmartins@uri.edu.