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MASTERS OF PSYCHIATRIC NURSING TO BE OFFERED AT BU IN JANUARY 2011

BRANDON, MB – Brandon University has been given the go-ahead to establish a Masters of Psychiatric Nursing (MPN) program – the first of its kind in Canada.

"This is a unique program in Canada and one that will serve Manitoba and Canada well," says Dr. Deborah Poff, President and Vice-Chancellor. "It fits with Brandon University's commitment with providing qualified professionals to meet the health care needs of Manitobans and beyond."

The Council on Post-Secondary Education (COPSE) has approved BU's plans to commence the program in 2010/11. A target start date of January 2011 has been established for admission of the first students. The program will have eight full time seats available for students. The MPN program is designed for professionals who are seeking advanced practice roles in administration, clinical practice or education. Graduates will be prepared for leadership in psychiatric nursing and health care.

"This new program will serve the needs of those wishing to pursue a specialty in psychiatric nursing. There will be much demand for graduates of the MPN. We are excited about enrolling our first class of graduate students this winter," says Dr. Dean Care, Dean School of Health Studies. "The new program will enhance our ability to recruit and retain the next generation of faculty. It will also promote the advancement of the psychiatric nursing profession in Manitoba and the rest of the country."

BU will be drawing on faculty expertise from across Canada. The MPN program will also provide program access through part-time study and distance learning.

"The College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba congratulates Brandon University on this achievement," said Leo O'Rourke, President of the College. "It is our hope that an ongoing commitment by the Government of Manitoba will ensure the continuing development of human resources in psychiatric nursing education and practice in our Province."

Brandon University and COPSE will work together to explore options for the delivery of the program based on a combination of alternative delivery formats, tuition fees, and internal resources to assure the overall programs sustainability.

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