



Press Release from Bournemouth University

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Health care academic to share expertise with Council of Deans of Health

A leading health care academic from Bournemouth University (BU) has been invited to share her expertise to promote and enhance the quality of health education and research in the UK.

Dr Gail Thomas, Dean of the School of Health & Social Care (HSC) at BU, has been appointed interim Director of Policy at the Council of Deans of Health. (Dr Thomas will continue her position as Dean of the School, working part-time at the Council of Deans of Health). The Council is a membership organisation made up of 90 UK universities, each represented by two personnel, numbering some 180 people in total.

As Director of Policy, Dr Thomas will be responsible for policy development; external representation, networking and influencing; supporting the Executive Team; and providing membership services. She will also lead and manage the Council's London-based head office, ensuring the organisation is viewed as the key authority on health professional education.

Speaking about her appointment, Dr Thomas said: "I am excited about the opportunity to build the reputation of Bournemouth University at national and international levels. I am also looking forward to building networks and meeting key players in the fields of health professional education and Higher Education".

Dr Thomas is currently a member of the Council's Executive Team and will take up her new role with immediate effect. She is expected to be in post until Christmas 2009, when a full-time permanent member of staff will be recruited.

Ends

Note to editors:

(1) The Council of Deans of Health is the principal source in Higher Education of collective views on education and research for nursing, midwifery and allied health professions. It works to maintain and enhance the quality of nursing and health profession education and acts as a forum for the exchange of information and good practice.

(2) Dr Gail Thomas began her professional career as a nurse in Montreal, Canada in 1972. She moved to London in 1977 and worked as a nurse and then a midwife until moving into education in the late 1980s. She taught both pre- and post-registration midwifery at North London College of Health Studies and then led a midwifery team as principal lecturer at Thames Valley University (TVU). She became Dean of Nursing and Midwifery at TVU in April 1995 and was appointed Dean of the School of Health & Social Care at BU in September 2006.

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