



Press Release from Bournemouth University
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Further information:
Lucy McQuillin / Matt Wilkin
Tel: 01202 961037

E-mail: press@bournemouth.ac.uk

BU helps launch England Honour Society for Nurses

Bournemouth University (BU) will play a major role in developing nursing scholarships across England through the new England Honour Society for Nurses – part of the wider USA-based Honour Society of Nursing.

Officially known as Sigma Theta Tau International, the organisation aims to support the learning, knowledge and professional development of nurses.

Nursing and midwifery leaders in practice, education and research from across England were invited to a recent reception hosted by BU's School of Health & Social Care (HSC), where the Honour Society was officially inaugurated by Dame Professor Betty Kershaw, President of the Nurses & Midwifery Scholarship Society.

BU Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Curran played a key role in welcoming the society and granting his approval on behalf of BU as the host institution – a formal requirement from Sigma Theta Tau International.

Sigma Theta Tau International has been working towards becoming more global in its operations and has explored opportunities to extend its membership and networking activities. There are now a growing number of emerging Chapters and Honour Societies within Europe. During the next 12 months, this new England Honour Society for Nurses will work closely with nurses across the country, as well as those belonging to European Chapters to develop and improve nursing practice.

Professor Elizabeth Rosser, Associate Dean (Nursing) at HSC explained: "The intention is that during the next year, the England Honour Society for Nurses will work with colleagues across England towards the development of, and application for England Chapter Status.

"As an Honour Society and subsequently with Chapter status, the membership will be involved in taking forward scholarships for nurses across England. The Society will then

join with established and emerging chapters in Europe and the USA in supporting nursing scholarships, research and publications that will influence nursing practice and education.”

Ends

Note to editors:

- (1) Sigma Theta Tau International (Honour Society of Nursing) was set up in 1922 and now boasts a membership of Chapters situated in countries across the world. The Society’s objectives are to “recognise superior achievement, develop leadership qualities, foster high professional standards, encourage creative work and strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession”.
- (2) Chapter status signifies “a group of nurses who have organised together and been approved as a Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International”. Chapters can be formed at universities or institutions of Higher Education. Chapter status is emerging in Europe; status has been achieved by Utrecht University, the Netherlands, the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and at Cardiff University and the University of Wales, Swansea. Emerging Honour Societies have been identified in Portugal and Hungary, with expressions of interest from 10 other countries.
- (3) Professor Elizabeth Rosser is an experienced nurse and midwife, having worked in a range of specialist clinical areas before starting her academic career in 2001. She undertook a number of roles at the University of the West of England (UWE), including overseeing the development of health and social care postgraduate and post-qualifying courses. Professor Rosser has researched and published in the areas of professional and workforce development, gaining a doctorate in the area of ‘Developing the Nursing Workforce’ in 2005. She joined BU earlier this year, while retaining her connections with a variety of external bodies, including the Council of Deans of Health, the Royal College of Nursing and the Nursing & Midwifery Council. She is also a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

For further media information contact Lucy McQuillin or Matt Wilkin on tel: 01202 961037 or email: lmcquillin@bournemouth.ac.uk / mwilkin@bournemouth.ac.uk