



## Press Release from Bournemouth University

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### **Bournemouth University's School of Health & Social Care proud of achievements**

As 2009 comes to an end, the School of Health & Social Care at Bournemouth University (BU) is celebrating a bumper year of achievements and progress, which has seen it continue to grow as one of the South's leading providers of health and social care education. Of particular interest, at a time when the plans for nursing to move to an all degree profession have been announced nationally, is the investment and improvement in nursing education and research at BU.

Dean of the School, Dr Gail Thomas, and colleagues are very proud of the outcome for nursing and midwifery in the government's Research Exercise Assessment (RAE), which saw some of its research ranked as world-leading. Comments from the review panel highlighted the important contribution being made by BU academics to critical and distinctive issues like the humanisation of care and service user involvement in research. Several nursing and midwifery researchers from BU have been invited guest speakers at international conferences this past year, ensuring their work is reaching a very wide audience and having a global impact.

As part of the University's plan to increase high quality academic endeavor, the School has appointed two new professors of nursing in the last two years, Professor Steve Ersser from the University of Southampton and Professor Elizabeth Rosser from the University of the West of England. In addition, Professor Edwin van Teijlingen has joined as Professor of Maternal and Perinatal health from the University of Aberdeen.

All three have added to the critical mass of academic expertise and the trajectory for nursing at BU is heading straight up. It has improved significantly in the national league tables (50 in *The Guardian University Guide*), progressed considerably in the National Student Survey and been chosen to host the English chapter of the Nursing Scholarship Society, an organisation that brings together nursing experts from across the country. It recruitments of a large number of students this year, across the four

branches of nursing (adult, child, mental health and learning disabilities) is another indicator of the rising esteem in which nursing at BU is seen.

Dr Thomas said: “The year achievements are a great testament to our staff both new and old, our research and enterprise activity, and the general hard work of all academics to ensure our programmes are successful in educating able and competent practitioners.

“We aim, through our commitment to high quality scholarship and education, to continue to rise through the league tables, continually striving for ever greater markers of excellence.”

The School of Health & Social Care has a long standing reputation for providing student-centred innovative programmes of education that prepare and develop health and social care practitioners. For further information visit [www.bournemouth.ac.uk/hsc](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/hsc)

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**For further information please contact BU’s Press Office on tel: 01202 961037 or email: [press@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:press@bournemouth.ac.uk)**