As we wrapped up another academic year and look ahead to the next, the words hope and growth continue to surface in reflection. In the midst of a pandemic with so many unknowns, it was somewhat difficult to mark the time this past year. Yet, an academic year is very cyclical, and that remained a constant.

I grew up on a farm, with appreciation and respect for the seasons, and the especially arduous cycles of planting and harvesting, with numerous variables in between. I witnessed perseverance, faith, hope and leadership during uncertain times. Our students, staff, faculty and leaders have also weathered many changing variables of the past fall and spring semesters, with rigorous curricula maintained throughout our programs and the culmination of graduation to celebrate outcomes all have worked so hard to achieve.

I was honored to serve in the role of Faculty Senate Chair this year, and want to highlight the drive for continuous improvement and academic excellence in all of our faculty. I couldn’t be more proud to be a part of this team that lives out our core values daily. Exciting opportunities await in the new year.

Lesa Hoppe, Ph.D., RN

Support for Students

Over $400,000 in scholarships were awarded this past spring to incoming and current students for the 2021-2022 school year. Over 400 students applied for scholarships this past year which demonstrates an increasing need in college-wide financial aid. We are thankful to all our donors for their continued support in helping our students achieve their goals.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can support the college, contact the Bryan Foundation at bryanfoundation@bryanhealth.org or 402-481-8605.

Welcome Back Volunteers!

We have missed our volunteers and are happy to say they are back! We are so thankful for all the work they do both behind and on the scenes to help the College. Currently, volunteers are helping in the admissions office, proctoring student exams and are mock patients in the Simulation Center.

Thank you to our volunteers!

College Receives Grant for CNA & Phlebotomy

Bryan College of Health Sciences is the proud recipient of a Community Health Endowment of Lincoln grant that will fund critical health care needs in our community. This opportunity will support individuals interested in becoming a CNA or phlebotomist in Lincoln during 2021 and 2022.

To learn more about these programs, go to: bryanhealthcollege.edu/support-roles

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Nursing Student Accepted to Mayo Externship

Jayde Shankland, a senior nursing student from Bassett, Nebraska, was selected for the highly competitive Mayo Summer III Externship in Rochester, Minnesota. Her ties to Mayo Clinic reach back to early childhood. When Jayde was in third grade, her mother was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. The family often traveled to Mayo so that her mom could receive specialized care.

For a child, the experience was bewildering, but what Jayde remembers most is the kindness of the nurses. She vividly recalls a nurse holding her hand and explaining what was going on. She says, "That made a big impact on me.

Jayde was a senior in high school when she lost her mom. "My world turned upside down," she says, "and I wasn't sure I would be able to handle the emotional stress that comes with nursing, so I enrolled in college." She attended UNL and worked through her grief during freshman year. A certified nursing assistant since she was 16, Jayde worked in the hospital that summer and realized "that nursing was where I belonged." After researching nursing schools, Jayde chose Bryan. She says, "It offered more clinical hours and hands-on experience than the other schools. Plus, everyone I talked to loved it and said the faculty is great."

One of those faculty members was Assistant Professor Lindsey Francis, MSN, RN. When Francis mentioned that she had participated in the Mayo externship, Jayde wanted to learn more. Francis encouraged her to apply and says, "Jayde has a passion for nursing and exemplifies one of the core values I learned at a Summer III at the Mayo Clinic—the patient always comes first. She spent extra time doing the 'little things' for patients, which can mean everything to that person who is stuck in a hospital bed. It is great to have her represent Bryan College of Health Sciences at the Mayo Clinic."

The deadline for applications was only a month away, but Jayde was motivated. Both Dr. Theresa Delahoyde, Dean of Undergraduate Nursing, and Professor Francis, reviewed Jayde’s application, resume and essay. Dr. Delahoyde says, “The Mayo Summer III Externship is so valuable because it provides additional world-class opportunities for students to gain more clinical experience, critical thinking and clinical judgment skills while caring for a diverse patient population. Twenty-five years ago, I was selected for the Summer III program, and it provided me with increased confidence as I entered my senior year of nursing school and was the springboard for my nursing career."

Fifty interns, out of 1,000 applicants, are selected to participate in the program. Jayde was thrilled to be offered a 10-week externship to work in the thoracic surgery progressive care unit and says, "I felt it was meant to be."

The interns work from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Each day, the interns are assigned to a clinical coach, and they work with that person throughout the shift. In the morning, the interns meet their patients, classify their acuity level and perform assessments. Throughout the day, they participate in direct patient care, interprofessional care-team rounding, discharge planning and the plan of care.

Jayde feels she was well prepared for this externship because of the skills and values she learned at Bryan. She hopes her experience will inspire other nursing students to consider an externship and advises them to have a well-rounded resume, including volunteer activities. She says, “Take every opportunity. Don’t say no. If someone asks if you want to take out an IV, even if you’ve done it 1,000 times, do it 1,001 times. I want to be confident when I’m on my own.”