

Early Beginnings of The Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society

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The Birth of the Society

Planning for the Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society began in the fall of 2015. There are many details and logistics to starting an Honor Society!

Nancyruth Leibold and Laurie Jo Johansen began planning for the dream of having a Nursing Honor Society in Southwest Minnesota!

We received support from the Southwest Minnesota State University Administration to proceed with the Nursing Honor Society.

Nancyruth Leibold met with Sigma Theta Tau International to discuss how to proceed in the steps of becoming a STTI Chapter.

The Steering Committee

The Steering Committee met regularly during the Spring of 2016.

The Steering Committee consisted of Laurie Jo Johansen and Nancyruth Leibold. Administrative Assistance was provided by LeeAnn Teig.



Nancyruth Leibold and Laurie Jo Johansen

The Steering Committee drafted many documents for the Society, such as
The Chapter Bylaws
Society Name
The Mission and Values Statements
The Charter Board of Directors
Society Goal Setting and much more!

Charter Board of Directors

The Charter Board of Directors met for the first time in May of 2016.

The Charter Board of Directors:

President: Nancyruth Leibold
President-Elect: Laurie Jo Johansen
Vice-President: Laura Schwarz
Treasurer: Angela Chesley
Secretary: Melissa Kidrowski
Counselor: Laurie Jo Johansen
Chair of Awards: Denae Winter
Chair of Leadership
Succession: Hillary Spray
Chair of Program
Planning: Nancyruth Leibold
Webmaster: Nancyruth Leibold
Archivist: Nancyruth Leibold



Board of Directors from left to right: Laurie Jo Johansen, Angela Chesley, Hillary Spray, Melissa Sue Kidrowski, Denae Winter, Nancyruth Leibold. Not pictured: Laura Schwarz

The Charter Board of Directors worked diligently to review documents, policies, and plan for the future of the Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society!

We choose a logo:



In September of 2016, Nancyruth Leibold wrote a grant that was funded by the Southwest Minnesota State University Foundation for the start up expenses.



We are grateful for the grant funding to start our Society!

Membership

In the Fall of 2016 and Spring of 2017, we did Membership Drives and had new members join our Society.

Student members are invited to join based on their academic achievements in our baccalaureate program. Per the Bylaws, we invite the top 35% of students based on GPAs in students who have completed at least half of the nursing curriculum.

Nurse leaders are welcome to join based on three criteria: being legally recognized to practice in their country of residence, having a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in any field, and having demonstrated achievement in nursing.

Our Charter Induction was held on November 3, 2016 in the Whipple Art Gallery on SMSU Campus.



Left to right: Laurie Jo Johansen, Robert Owusu, JoAnn Williams Ruppert, Debra Herrmann, Tracy Hansen, Christine Bloome, Sarah Marie Wilm Hunter, & Nancyruth Leibold

Our second Induction was held on March 28, 2017 in the Whipple Art Gallery on SMSU Campus.

HONOR SOCIETY PLEDGE

I accept membership into the Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society and I pledge to fulfill the commitment to nursing excellence, knowledge, service, and leadership throughout my career.

Programs

Our first educational program was held on November 14, 2016 as a Live Webinar Presentation by Dr. Laura Schwarz. The title of the Webinar was:

Meaningful Mentoring.



Dr. Laura Schwarz

On February 13, 2017, our second educational program: *Love, Honor, and Courage in Nursing* was presented in a Live Webinar by Dr. Nancyruth Leibold.

The Society will offer at least two educational programs per year for members.

The 2017 Summit: Excellence in Rural Nursing was held March 29, 2017.



The first Annual Membership Meeting was after the Summit.

Future Aspirations

As an honor society, our goal is to apply for official chapter status with the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International.

We want to build our membership and increase networking among nurses in Southwest Minnesota as well as continue our mission of scholarship, leadership and service in the community.

Contact Person

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