

## **PARTNERING TODAY TO CREATE TOMORROW'S LEADERS: THE SXU/RUSH MSN-DNP PROGRAM**

The educators at Rush University College of Nursing(RUCON) and Saint Xavier University School of Nursing (SXU) have developed an innovative model that builds upon the strengths of both institutions to facilitate the seamless transition of students from a Master's degree granting institution (SXU) into a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at Rush.

SXU is not authorized to grant doctoral degrees in Nursing. With the discussion of the DNP as a key degree for advanced practice nurses, SXU would be at a disadvantage by not being able to offer the degree. Collaboration with Rush enables SXU to offer a facilitated admission into doctoral education for their MSN students. It is advantageous to Rush to have a process for early identification of qualified students, focused advisement to students regarding their career progression and a cadre of local students prepared for doctoral study.

### **Planning the Partnership**

- Dean to Dean discussion occurred to establish common ground
- Task force was established with key representatives from both institutions. Subcommittees were organized to work on curriculum integration, admission procedures, financial aid, marketing and funding sources.
- Dialogue occurred between faculties of the two institutions and their respective task force members.
- General meetings were held to review recommendations from task force subcommittees
- Detailed timeline was developed that considered the approval mechanisms of both institutions
- Plan was developed for introduction of partnership to the public.

### **What is the advantage of the SXU – Rush partnership to the student**

- SXU and Rush are two private universities in the Chicago metro area that are committed to providing a quality graduate nursing education. This partnership provides a seamless way for focused students to achieve their career goals.
- By identifying their interest as early as possible, materials can be reviewed and students can receive guidance on how to proceed
- Application paperwork is reduced; students pay one application fee.