

Peru State, UNMC, Expand RHOP Program

(KTNC) - Peru State College and the University of Nebraska Medical Center are expanding the Rural Health Opportunities Program partnership to include four seats in nursing. Peru State has offered three seats in UNMC's pharmacy program since 2012.

The Rural Health Opportunities Program is designed to address the needs of rural Nebraska by encouraging rural residents to pursue health care careers.

The agreement will allow up to two eligible students to be accepted into the Lincoln division of the UNMC College of Nursing and up to two in the Omaha Division for a total of four students annually.

UNMC College of Nursing Dean Juliann Sebastian says expanding access to nursing education at Peru State College is an important step to eliminating the shortage of registered nurses in rural Nebraska.

The criteria for students to be admitted to the nursing program include a minimum 3.2 Grade-Point-Average and a score of 24 or higher on the ACT or 1270 or higher on the SAT.

Program participants also must be from a rural area as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, be a graduate of a Nebraska High School, and be committed to practicing in rural Nebraska. Students must maintain a minimum 3.5 Grade-Point-Average while in the program.

Students accepted into the R-HOP program will receive a full tuition waiver while enrolled at Peru State and acceptance into the UNMC College of Nursing.

Applications are available online at www.peru.edu/rhop. The deadline to apply for the 2014 school year is December 1 and students will be notified in the spring if they're accepted into the program.