Sullivan University to offer first Doctorate Program in Pharmacy

There are many milestones in the history of institutions. The just-released announcement that Sullivan University is planning on offering its first Doctorate Program is indeed a major milestone in the growth and development of the University. Sullivan has always reacted to a critically-growing shortage in high-need, high-paying careers. The University did extensive advance planning and the University’s Board of Directors has approved the establishment of a College of Pharmacy and awarding of the Doctor of Pharmacy degree to graduates.

University Chancellor and Founder, Dr. A.R. Sullivan stated, “this is the first, of what we hope will be several, doctorate-level offerings Sullivan University will provide. The need for new pharmacists is almost unlimited in the years ahead, both in Kentucky and throughout the United States.” He added, “this decision was not made hastily and will require a major financial commitment by The Sullivan University System. But under the leadership of System President Glenn D. Sullivan and Service Vice President Tom Davison, we are committed to developing one of the finest Colleges of Pharmacy in the United States.”

Will be fully accredited

This new Doctor of Pharmacy Program, PharmD as it is referred to in the profession, will require a level change with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and with the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE). Those applications will be made later this year following the selection of a Dean for the new College of Pharmacy. A national search for the new Dean is now underway. It is anticipated that a new Dean will be hired by the end of summer.

Extensive research

Sullivan University has been doing research for more than two years on this new program. A year ago, the University hired Dr. Melvyn Nona, Executive Director Emeritus of the American Council for Pharmacy Education, the national accrediting body for pharmacy schools, as a consultant to help research this potential new program. Dr. Nona will now sit on the search committee which will be chaired by Dr. Steve Coppock, Executive Vice President and CEO of Sullivan University. Also serving on the search committee will be Dr. Mel Kuhbander, representing the University faculty, Dr. Leon Carwell, President of the Kentucky Pharmacists Association, Dr. Don Kupper, Director of Pharmacy at the University of Louisville, and two additional representatives currently under consideration.

Filling a great need

Research conducted by the University showed a huge demand for additional pharmacists across the country. Of the seven pharmacy colleges contacted, the average acceptance rate of applicants is 15%. This is currently a need for more than 100 additional pharmacists in Kentucky alone and the demand is expected to grow significantly in the next ten years as the “baby boom” generation reaches retirement age and beyond.

Lucrative salaries

The average starting salary for entry level pharmacists is more than $90,000 in Kentucky and nearly $100,000 for the U.S. Norton Healthcare, Humana & Kindred Healthcare Pharmacy Divisions have already met with University officials and have expressed serious interest in working with the new College of Pharmacy including serving on an advisory board and even sponsoring students tuition in return for working for the companies upon graduation. The University is also planning to meet with the Kentucky Hospital Association, Rx Crossroads, Walgreens, Kroger, Rite Aid, CVS and other organizations to seek their participation.

New facilities

The new Sullivan University College of Pharmacy is projected to start its first class sometime in 2008. Additional facilities must be secured and those efforts are now underway. Once the facilities are secured or built, a more definite start date can be announced. The first class is expected to have 60-70 students. Eventually, 100 students per class or a total of 400 students are planned for the PharmD Program.

Additional information will be forthcoming in the months and years ahead. The University community will be kept informed as we move forward on this exciting new part of our development and growth.

Sullivan University System names new president

Continuing a third generation of involvement by the Sullivan family with Sullivan University, Glenn D. Sullivan has been named President of The Sullivan University System.

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather A.O. Sullivan and father Dr. A.R. Sullivan who together founded Sullivan in 1962, President Sullivan is the third generation of the Sullivan family to lead the independent college or university system.

President Sullivan, a graduate of Tulane University, has been employed faculty and staff and serving more than 8,000 students each year on six campuses; and worldwide on the World Wide Web through online classes. Chancellor named

Dr. A.R. Sullivan, who has served as President since 1978, has moved to the new position of Chancellor of the System. He will devote more time to the development of new programs at Sullivan University as well as doing in-depth research on many of the System’s internal procedures to ensure that the quality that he has devoted his entire 44 year career with Sullivan University is further enhanced.

Chancellor shared

Dr. Richard Dr. Sullivan, who has served as President since 1978, has moved to the new position of Chancellor of the System. He will devote more time to the development of new programs as well as doing in-depth research on many of the System’s internal procedures to ensure that the quality that he has devoted his entire 44 year career with Sullivan University is further enhanced.

Dr. Sullivan shared, “I am not retiring. I am just moving to a new full-time role of leadership within the System. I will still be working with, and challenging everyone, including our new President, to move these institutions to even higher plateaus.

I will be working with our campus leaders daily on new projects.” He added, “After 24 years of service to the organization, I am ready for this position and I know he will do a wonderful job. I am also happy that my daughter, Lisa Sullivan Likins is also a part of this organization in her role with the University’s Early Childhood Education program. I am blessed that my two children have chosen to work with me in building this organization.”

The Herald staff and everyone in the Sullivan University System, congratulate and thank Chancellor Sullivan for his lifelong efforts to build Sullivan from those first seven students to where the University is today. At the Spring 2006 graduation held April 22, 2006 (one of two formal commencement ceremonies the University has each year), more than 600 students were eligible to receive certificates, diplomas, associate, bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Chancellor Sullivan shared with the 4,000+ family and friends in attendance, that the highlights of his year are the spring and fall graduations where he meets each graduate and hands them their diplomas or degrees. He added, “It renews me every time to watch the pride and happiness of those who have met the challenges and reached graduation as their first goal to success. I plan to continue to perform this as long as I am able.”