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**Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College
sign articulation agreement to help nursing students**

YPSILANTI – Eastern Michigan University and Washtenaw Community College (WCC) have signed an articulation agreement that will provide transfer students the opportunity to complete a nursing degree at EMU.

“The School of Nursing at EMU is proud to participate in this partnership with our nursing education colleagues at WCC,” said Betty Beard, director of EMU’s School of Nursing. “This agreement will streamline the process of admission, articulation, and transition for nursing students who excel in their studies at WCC and want to continue their higher education by obtaining their baccalaureate degrees - all in a seamless process. These nurses will provide nursing care for patients, families, and communities in an increasingly complex health care system.”

“The signing of the Nursing Transfer agreement symbolizes the renewing of our partnership with EMU School of Nursing. The timing of this agreement couldn't be better. It responds to the current state of the economy, as well as the current nursing shortage, by offering a high quality, cost-effective joint program. Clearly, the WCC/EMU Transfer Program will give nursing students the 'best of both worlds,’” said Gloria A. Velarde, department chair for Nursing and Health Sciences at WCC.

“This agreement provides another pathway for students to complete a bachelor's degree in nursing. It's one more way that our two schools have worked together as partners to address the local demand for qualified nurses,” said Patricia Cygnar, coordinator of community college relations for EMU. “The nursing departments at EMU

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and WCC worked very hard to put this agreement together and make sure that students can transfer smoothly without repeating courses or losing credit.”

The agreement, which is effective from Sept. 1, 2009 through Aug. 31, 2012, will allow a student completing an associate in applied science degree at WCC the ability to transfer up to 82 credit hours toward a bachelor of science in nursing at EMU..

EMU will waive the 60-hour rule and require that a minimum of 42 credit hours must be completed in courses offered at the four-year college level.

The EMU School of Nursing plans to accept up to 16 WCC transfer students each year to fill positions in the traditional nursing program, which have opened up due to attrition. These will be additional students, over and above those who have already transferred from WCC's RN program into EMU's Nursing Completion program, Cygnar said.

For more information, go to <http://www.emich.edu/nursing/>

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