

Program To Up Nurse Supply In Area

A program to increase the supply of baccalaureate prepared nurses in Eastern Oregon has received first year funding from the division of nursing, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The School of Nursing at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center (UOHC) has received \$124,458 for the first year of a three-year program to offer a baccalaureate degree program to selected students electing to take the nursing major at Eastern Oregon State College (EOSC) in La Grande.

With approval from the State Board of Higher Education, the Educational Coordinating Commission and the Emergency Board, the program is being established through the joint efforts of the UOHC and EOSC to help meet the health care needs of the Eastern Oregon region.

Instructional planning will be the emphasis of the first year of the program. Open to students enrolled in pre-nursing at all state institutions as well as registered nurses who wish to pursue a baccalaureate degree, the program will enroll 60 students during the three years.

Registered nurses will be the first students to be admitted to the program, probably early in 1979, according to Dr. Carol Lindeman, dean of the UOHC School of Nursing, who said generic (pre-nursing) students will be able to enter the program in the fall of 1979.

The UOHC School of Nursing will offer the nursing major while EOSC will offer the supporting coursework in liberal arts and sciences necessary for the major and bachelor's degree. A program coordinator will be hired, and faculty will hold regular appointments in the UOHC School of Nursing along with adjunct appointments at the EOSC.

The Eastern Oregon nursing project began almost two years ago when Carol Lindeman, dean, and Donna Schantz, assistant dean, toured the state to determine educational needs in nursing.

They found Eastern Oregon "particularly persuasive in showing us needs for education of nurses in that area and the support from EOSC President Dr. Rodney A. Briggs and EOSC's Health Education Advisory Council encouraged

us to proceed with planning. "Our surveys and studies showed that the specific health care needs identified by the Eastern Oregon region require not only more nurses, but nurses skilled in clinical decision-making and able to assume leadership roles," Dr.

Lindeman said. In 1972 the recommended number of registered nurses per 100,000 population was 400. Although Oregon as a state is approximately at that level now, studies have shown that the eight county rural area of Eastern Oregon is

below this recommendation with a ratio of 326 per 100,000. The educational mix of registered nurses in Eastern Oregon is also below the level recommended in 1975 by the American Nursing Association, with an inadequate percentage of nurses prepared at

the baccalaureate and master's levels. In addition to increasing the number of baccalaureate prepared nurses in Eastern Oregon, it is hoped the program can develop a small cadre of bilingual and native American nurses to work with that

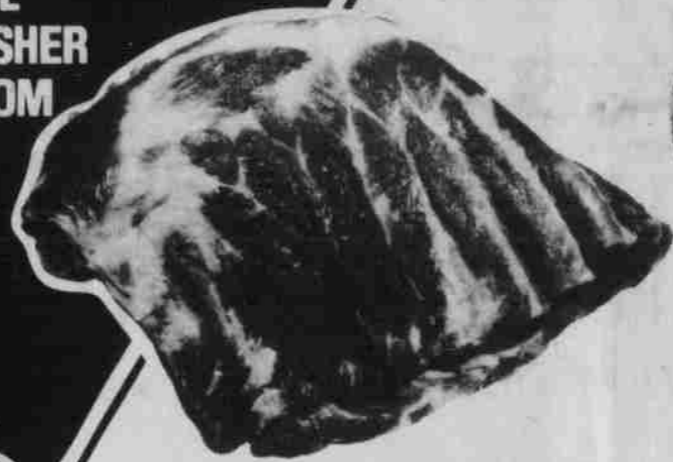
minority which is most represented among the predominantly white population totaling around 129,000 for the eight-county area. Program administrators point out that the program's impact will not be experienced until the end of the 1981

academic year, when the first students will graduate. Therefore, it will still be necessary to continue to recruit baccalaureate nurses from outside the region. The state's educational approving agencies determined that the program should have

non-state funding to get started. The federal grant, which the School of Nursing applied for and that has just been awarded, provides for additional funding of over \$400,000 in the second and third years "if adequate progress is made."

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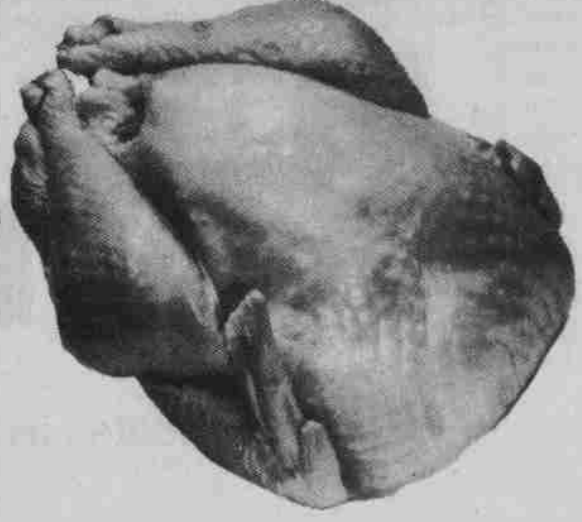
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Bresnahan Listed

Harry Lee Bresnahan III, Hermiston, is listed on the University of Portland's honor roll for spring semester. He is a junior enrolled in the university's School of Business Administration.

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