The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program began on September 6, 2007, with a three-day immersion for 28 masters prepared advance practice nurses. This first cohort of DNP students was from five states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Georgia, and Tennessee. The first class included 14 nurse practitioners, 7 nurse educators, 3 nurse administrators, 2 CNS’s, 1 nurse anesthetist, and 1 research nurse. The students have chosen the DNP program for a variety of personal and professional reasons.

On Monday October 15, the Higher Learning Commission will vote on the approval of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Consortium Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. If the vote is positive, as we expect it to be, there will be a two-week comment period, with final approval of the program in November 2007. The DNP students are all Graduate Special Students until the program is officially approved.

Although, each of the four consortium member universities admitted DNP students, the students move through six didactic courses in the two-year DNP program as a group. This fall two of the didactic courses are being offered, NURS 700: Theoretical Foundations for Nursing Practice and NURS 701: Applied Biostatistics. NURS 700 is being taught by Dr. Jane Giedt (Minnesota State University Moorhead) and Dr. Diane Forsyth (Winona State University). NURS 701 is being taught by Dr. Brant Deppa (Winona State University). NURS 704, the only DNP didactic course that will be taught through Minnesota State University, Mankato, will be delivered to all DNP students during summer session 2008 by Dr. Sue Ellen Bell.

The four clinical scholarship courses that are offered concurrently with the didactic courses beginning the second semester of the program are delivered by each of the Consortium Universities. NURS 740: Clinical Scholarship I will be taught by Drs. Karen Willette-Murphy and Sonja Meiers during spring semester 2008. The students in the Mankato cohort are: Sara Beske, an FNP working in Mankato; LaDonna McGohan, a nurse educator at Mayo; Natalie Rosen, an Adult Mental/Behavioral Health CNS working at Abbott; Laura Vesel, a nurse educator at MCTC; and Ellen Vorbeck, an FNP working at Mayo. Please greet these students if you see them in the Wissink halls next semester.

The DNP program will be accepting applications for the fall 2008 cohort after the first of the year. If you have questions about the program or know someone who is interested in applying, please contact Sue Ellen Bell (Chair, DNP Program Management Council) at sue.bell@mnsu.edu or at 651-690-9151 (home phone) and x6814 (Mankato office phone).