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UNC SCHOOL OF NURSING SELECTS GREEN HOUSE HOMES AT MIRASOL FOR NURSE PRACTITIONER GRADUATE PROGRAM

GREELEY, CO / LOVELAND, CO – January 23, 2019 - The University of Northern Colorado (UNC) School of Nursing placed its first Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) student at the Green House Homes at Mirasol for the Spring 2019 semester. Nurse practitioners in acute care assess, diagnose, monitor, treat and coordinate the care of patients to promote health managing complex health conditions in both inpatient and outpatient settings to improve overall health and reduce complications. The UNC program is intended to prepare the student for advanced clinical practice as an AGACNP emphasizing care across settings and a focus on reducing readmissions.

This will be the first NP student to train in a Green House Home – a radically simple alternative to the traditional nursing home. The Green House Project aims to provide an alternative to the traditional institutional concept of nursing home care for the elderly. Under this vision, all elders have the opportunity to live in small, welcoming homes with dignity, autonomy, choice, and the best quality of life possible, while receiving the care they need.

New philosophies, such as person-centered care and culture change in nursing homes, have catalyzed the design of service delivery. There is a worsening shortage of competent, committed, long-term care workers who are able to meet the needs of older adults. Efforts to address the shortage must be informed through education, training and development activities, making delivery of long-term care services and supports to older people more attractive. “We must respond to new philosophies and models of care, such as the Green House Homes”, said Dr. Bob Tello, Medical Director of the Green House Homes. “Exposing students to innovative models of long-term care is essential in developing the future workforce. Elders in the Green House Homes are excited to interact with students while living in an academic rich environment.”

“The Green House Project is a dynamic model that continues to evolve as an agile leader in the field,” said Dr. Audrey Snyder, UNC Coordinator AGACNP Program. “The success of the Green House Homes has catalyzed a community of thought leaders who are discovering new ways to improve the lives of elders. We’re excited to work in partnership with them to change the way people age in Northern Colorado.”

National independent studies conducted between 2003 and 2012 have shown the Green House evidence-based model to be effective, feasible, and sustainable. Compared to traditional nursing home residents, Green House elders, family, and staff report the following experiences:

- Improved Quality of Life: Green House elders report improvement in autonomy, dignity, privacy, meaningful activity, relationships, enjoyment of meals, individuality, and emotional wellbeing.
- Improved Quality of Care: Green House elders maintain self-care abilities longer with fewer elders experiencing decline in activities of daily living. Fewer Green House elders experience depression, being bedridden, having little or no activity, and avoidable hospitalizations.
- Improved Family Satisfaction: Green House families are more satisfied with general amenities, meals, housekeeping, physical environment, privacy, autonomy, and health care.
- Improved Staff Satisfaction: Green House staff reported higher job satisfaction and increased likelihood of remaining in their jobs.

This philosophy is realized, in part, in the design of each Green House Home. At Mirasol, each home is designed to provide 10 private rooms with private baths, with a great room, dining room, and kitchen at its center. Each home also features a screened-in porch and easy access to safe, secured outdoor spaces in a comfortable neighborhood setting.

The future of eldercare is happening right now, right here in Northern Colorado. By expanding the number of Green House Homes at Mirasol, we will remain proactive leaders in revolutionizing eldercare and be prepared to serve the community effectively in terms of demand, ensuring that Northern Colorado remains at the forefront of elder-directed care for years to come.

To learn more about The Green House Homes at Mirasol visit: mirasolgreenhousehomes.org

About the University of Northern Colorado School of Nursing: The UNC School of Nursing subscribes to a philosophy of nursing that views the patient holistically. Congruent with the belief in the dignity and worth of people is the belief that the individual has a right to be an active participant in the decisions concerning his or her well-being. The School of Nursing, approved by the Colorado State Board of Nursing, strives for excellence as reflected in highly qualified faculty, rigorous academic standards for students and a commitment to quality professional practice outcomes within all healthcare settings. To learn more about the UNC AGACNP program please visit <https://www.unco.edu/nhs/nursing/programs/>

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