

# News



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*For Immediate Release*

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## **Simmons College Takes Pledge on Opioid Education as Announced at the White House**

BOSTON (April 29, 2016) – Simmons College has joined a national academic nursing movement to combat prescription drug and opioid abuse in America by committing to educate its advanced practice registered nursing (APRN) students on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) [Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain](#). The commitment was featured in a White House fact sheet today as part of the [White House Champions of Change event on Advancing Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery](#). Earlier this month, the Obama Administration asked the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s (AACN) member schools with APRN programs to partner on this initiative.

“By making this commitment, Simmons College recognizes that opioid abuse is a pressing public health crisis,” said Simmons Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences Judy A. Beal. “We fully understand and agree with the Administration that it is critical that APRN students receive education on current standards, preparing them to make a difference in the lives of their future patients suffering from the devastating effects of opioid abuse.”

Today, AACN’s President and CEO Deborah Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN, will offer remarks at White House to recognize the 191 AACN member nursing schools that have taken this pledge.

“AACN is proud of the rapid response by our membership when the Administration called to help ensure future generations of providers who prescribe opioids for chronic pain are prepared for the critical work ahead,”

said Dr. Trautman. “We commend academic nursing’s dedication to ensuring our nation’s future providers are prepared to address opioid abuse and overdose using best practices.”

For a complete list of AACN member schools who have pledged, visit: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/opioids>.

Simmons College offers four undergraduate nursing programs - Nursing (BS); Nursing (BS/MS a 4+1 program); Nursing (BSN) for RN holders; and Nursing (BSN) for RN holders (Online) – and five graduate nursing programs – Nursing (MS) Human Development & Health; Nursing (MSN) Direct Entry for BA/BS holders; Nursing (MSN) for BSN holders; Nursing (MSN) for RN holders; Nursing (MSN – Online); Nursing Practice (DNP).

In 2016, Simmons’s online nursing program was named by *US News & World Report* as a top online nursing program in the nation, one of only two programs in Massachusetts to earn that distinction.

“In Massachusetts, we’ve seen a 65% increase in unintentional opioid deaths from 2012 -2014,” said Dean Beal. “This is a public health crisis, and we will continue to train Simmons students on the need to responsibly prescribe opioids given the dangers of addiction.”

Founded in 1899, Simmons is the only undergraduate women’s college in Boston, and maintains a history of visionary thinking and a focus on social responsibility. The college also offers world-class coeducational graduate programs in nursing and health sciences, life sciences and technology, liberal arts, library and information science, business management, and social work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at [@SimmonsCollege](#) and [@SimmonsNews](#). □