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University of Dayton, Ohio (url: http://www.udayton.edu/index.php)

Distinguished Fellows

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The director of the University of Dayton's physician assistant program has received a national honor in her profession.

The American Academy of Physician Assistants recently recognized Sue Wulff, chair of the University's physician assistant education department, as a Distinguished Fellow. According to the AAPA, fellows are recognized for "their service to the physician assistant profession, their commitment to advancing health care for all people, and by their exemplary personal and professional development."

Wulff is one of 13 physician assistants in Ohio to be named Distinguished Fellows. Jeb Sheidler, the University's director of didactic education for the PA program, had previously received this recognition.

"The national recognition of our director and one of our clinical faculty members as distinguished fellows in their profession is a testament to their professional contributions and the quality of the education they will offer in the University's new program," said Kevin Kelly, dean of the School of Education and Health Sciences.

To receive the designation, the AAPA says physician assistants must have demonstrated "outstanding dedication" to the profession in at least three of the following areas:

- Distinction in medical practice, education, research or health care management
- Leadership in medicine and health care
- Professional involvement
- Commitment to lifelong learning
- Community service

Physician assistants practice medicine under the supervision of physicians, including surgeons, and are formally trained to provide diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive healthcare services as delegated by a physician.

The Ohio Board of Regents approved the University of Dayton physician assistant program in April. The program will accept its first class in August 2014, pending provisional accreditation in March 2014 from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant. Prospective students can learn more about the program and apply online at http://www.go.udayton.edu/paprogram (url: http://www.go.udayton.edu/paprogram). The application is through a common application service for physician assistants (CASPA).

The 27-month, seven-semester program will offer a Master of Physician Assistant Practice. The University expects to enroll up to 30 students in the first year, 35 in the second with a target of 40 students in subsequent years.

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