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NKU veteran fills dean position

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HIGHLAND HEIGHTS - Dr. Denise Robinson has been appointed as the founding dean of Northern Kentucky University's College of Health Professions contingent upon the approval of the Board of Regents.

"The NKU Health Professions program graduates are well respected in the region," said Robinson. "The programs are rigorous, yet provide support for students through peer mentoring, supplemental instruction, student support groups and faculty involvement."

Robinson said she has six current goals for the college: ensuring academic quality of all programs; recruiting and retaining a diverse qualified faculty and staff; recruiting, retaining and graduating qualified students; enhancing active learning; increasing regional stewardship and getting funding and support for a new Health Innovation Building.

"Students from across the U.S. have chosen the programs at NKU for their high standards and innovation," said Robinson. "We have begun several cohort programs in the community in collaboration with St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Cincinnati Children's Medical Center, and Tri-Health, to help meet the need for additional health care professionals. I plan to continue in that fashion."

The largest change Robinson will be challenged with is the proposed Health Innovation Building.

"NKU is seeking \$92.5 million in state funding for a joint project to build a new facility for the college and renovate NKU's Founders Hall. The Health Innovation/Founder's Hall project is the No. 1 project on the Council on Postsecondary Education's Capitol Improvement priorities," said Robinson.

Robinson said the center will include 8,000 to 12,000 square feet dedicated to a virtual hospital simulation center which will look and function like a hospital unit.

"It will have beds, medication dispensing systems and electronic medical records that area facilities are using. One of the highlights of this virtual hospital will be expanded use of these high-tech simulators."

The simulators will allow students to have specific types of patients.

"It will not depend on whether real patients happen to be in the hospitals at the moment," said Robinson. "In our 'virtual hospital,' such patients will be guaranteed for each student. High-risk situations such as high-risk delivery, critically ill patients and code situations can be experienced by all students. There will be simulators for adults, babies and even for pregnancy and delivery."

Robinson has taught graduate and undergraduate courses at NKU for 25 years. She was a director of the Masters of Science in Nursing program for 15 years and the interim chair of the School of Nursing and Health Professionals. She continues to practice as a family nurse practitioner on a limited basis.
