



Prescription for growth

Manchester expands health science
in high-demand fields

ESCAPE



Manchester
University
Athletic Training

Anatomage



Lea Johnson didn't have the job yet. She was heading to her interview at Manchester and reflecting on the Indiana cornfields that stirred memories of her childhood farm in Illinois.

If Manchester starts a nursing program, Johnson thought, a focus on rural health would set us apart. "People have needs everywhere," she says. "Health care is universal."

Johnson got the job as vice president for health science initiatives, moved from Massachusetts to Indiana, and started exploring new health science programs that will help Manchester grow and meet market needs. While nursing is first on her agenda, she's imagining a range of possible programs in rehabilitative sciences, applied medical sciences and even bioengineering.

"I love Manchester," says Johnson. "I've never worked in a place where I've felt such across-the-board support."

No small amount of that support comes from President **Dave McFadden '82**, whose vision is for Manchester to become the region's leading health science educator within 10 years. "Demand for health science degrees is exploding," says McFadden, "and it's a good fit for us. Health sciences dovetail with historic Manchester strengths."

In 2018, the Board of Trustees embraced McFadden's vision, too, when it approved in principle a proposal to expand Manchester's footprint in health science education. The goal is to attract more students and give them more of the academic programs they want.

Case in point: More than 40 percent of a recent first-year class expressed interest in a science major. For those who choose biology-chemistry hoping to become physicians, some discover that being a doctor isn't for them, though they still want a health care career. If they choose nursing, says McFadden, they will likely transfer.

On Pages 8 and 9, first-year students in the Master of Athletic Training Program view a virtual cadaver on an Anatomage in the Mirro Center Simulation Laboratory of Parkview Health, adjacent to Manchester's Fort Wayne campus. They are (from left), **Caiden Dicke**, **Rhylee Beshears**, **Lauren Oglesbee**, **Professor Mark Huntington '76**, who is also dean for natural and health sciences, **Mitchell Enyart** and **Garrett Enders**.

Soon, aspiring nurses will have one more reason to stay, and prospective students will have more reasons to choose Manchester in the first place.

In January, the board gave Johnson the green light to develop a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. The process is rigorous and requires approval first from the Indiana Board of Nursing and then the Higher Learning Commission before Manchester can even begin marketing the program.

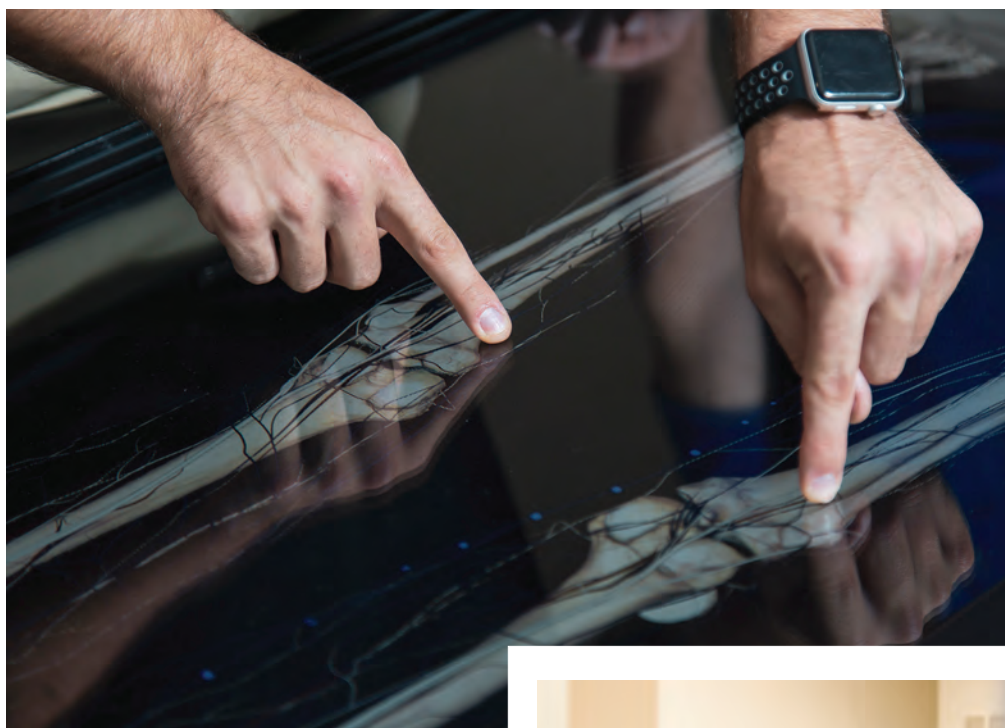
To help her prepare for that approval, Johnson hired Beth Schultz from Anderson University in Greenville, S.C., as nursing director and Nancy Schroeder from Ohio Northern University as MU's first nursing faculty member. The two are working in earnest to develop a curriculum, laboratory spaces and other plans.

Johnson envisions launching three nursing programs in the next several years. The first would be an accelerated BSN for people who already have bachelor's degrees in another field. Manchester would give them credit for about half of their coursework and they would focus on actual nursing courses and clinical experiences.

The second program, says Johnson, will be a traditional four-year BSN for high school graduates who will spend the first two years in North Manchester and the second two years in Fort Wayne.

The third program likely will be an RN-to-BSN program for registered nurses, most of whom attended community colleges but want a bachelor's degree. Increasingly, says Johnson, employers want nurses with bachelor's degrees.

For Johnson, one of the most exciting aspects of developing Manchester's program is its expanding relationship with Parkview Health,



the region's largest employer and not-for-profit health care provider. Parkview Health and Manchester have reached an agreement that will allow the University to lease part of the basement of the Parkview Mirro Center for Research and Innovation for a nursing laboratory and classroom. The Mirro Center is on the campus of Parkview North hospital, which is next door to Manchester's Fort Wayne campus.

Once developed, the lab will feature a mock hospital with four to six beds. The space will provide what Johnson calls "basic training for nurses" to learn skills such as making beds, giving injections and taking blood pressure. On the North Manchester campus, students also will have use of a new Anatomage table, a technologically advanced system that allows students to visualize anatomy exactly as they would on a cadaver. The Anatomage is a generous gift from



Megan Hite (above) works in a chemistry lab on the North Manchester campus. At top, a closer look at an Anatomage.

Dr. Harry Keffer '59 and Dr. Jan Keffer, retired health care professionals who are making possible the Keffer Simulation Lab.

Parkview has been very supportive of Manchester's plans for nursing, says Johnson. Hospital staff members are offering advice on curriculum and skills that they need from today's nurses. Its regional hospitals and clinics are interested in providing clinical training sites.

In addition to rural health, Johnson wants an urban health component to the program, noting that Manchester's rural and urban campuses are perfect locations for real-world learning.

a medication. PGx students can earn their degrees online or in person at the Fort Wayne campus.

The interrelated disciplines merged in 2018 when Manchester launched the first and only dual degree in the nation that graduates students with both Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Pharmacogenomics degrees. "It's really a pairing of those two sciences and two expertises that have a lot of natural overlap with each other," says Thomas Smith, associate professor of pharmacy practice and pharmacogenomics.



"People have needs everywhere. Health care is universal."

– Lea Johnson

Moreover, the two retirement communities in North Manchester are fertile opportunities for students to study geriatric health.

While Johnson came to Manchester to expand the health sciences, Manchester already boasts a number of successes in that area, most notably northern Indiana's first doctoral-level pharmacy program launched in 2012.

Pharmacy faculty built on their expertise by starting a pioneering master's degree in pharmacogenomics (PGx) in 2016. Also known as personalized or precision medicine, PGx explores the relationship between an individual's genes and his or her response to





Clockwise from above: **Ben Miller '19** and **Annalise Cassidy '19** work together in a pharmacogenomics laboratory on the Fort Wayne campus. Both graduated in May with Master of Science in Pharmacogenomics degrees. **Caiden Dicke** (left) and **Garrett Enders**, first-year Master of Athletic Training students, practice conducting a primary survey for life-threatening conditions. Developing MU's nursing program are (from left) Nancy Schroeder, associate professor of nursing, Lea Johnson, vice president for health science initiatives, and Beth Schultz, nursing program director. Student **Samantha Ziemniak** examines the bioluminescent bacteria that she made in the lab. **Kristy Chelius** and Cassie Gohn, assistant professor of biology, examine mice for anatomical deformities caused by prenatal exposure to diabetes medication.

