



NEWS RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Will Ackerman -- Public Affairs Officer
VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System
4101 Woolworth Avenue (00P)
Omaha, NE 68105
Office: (402) 995-4719
Cell: (402) 332-6780
E-mail: William.Ackerman@va.gov
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/VANWIHCS>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NebraskalowaVA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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VA Post-Graduate Pharmacy Resident Program receives Six-Year Accreditation

OMAHA, Neb. — The Department of Veterans Affairs Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System Grand Island Division was recently accredited for a six-year period for its postgraduate, year-one pharmacy residency program by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

“Receiving a six-year accreditation is a great achievement for any residency program,” said Janelle Sellers, Pharm.D, director, of the Grand Island VA’s postgraduate year-one pharmacy residency program. “This provides confirmation that our training program is of high quality, and our pharmacy department is providing the best care to our Veterans.”

Grand Island VA’s program trains pharmacy residents to be highly competent in ambulatory care pharmacotherapy, long-term care, outpatient and inpatient pharmacy, management and research. Residents also gain experience in prescribing, monitoring, and adjusting medications for many different diseases.

Pharmacy residents who complete Grand Island VA program gain a unique experience in palliative and hospice care during their training at the Community Living Center.

Sellers said they train three pharmacy residents each year, and have graduated 19 since the program began in 2005. Ironically, Sellers was one of the program’s first two residents, and now oversees the program. The other inaugural resident, Amy Thompson, Pharm.D, is the geriatric clinical pharmacy preceptor in the Grand Island VA Community Living Center.

Most candidates for the program come from medical schools in the Midwest, including the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Creighton University, Drake University, the University of Kansas and the University of Wyoming.

The Grand Island VA residency also provides an additional experience that most other programs do not have; it provides residency training in rural communities, whereas most residency programs are located in urban areas.

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Although the training is in a rural area, there was not a shortage of potential candidates; 32 applicants applied for this year's three positions.

The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System's mission is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. VA NWIHCS employees serve more than 161,000 Veterans in Nebraska, western Iowa and portions of Kansas and Missouri. The system includes a tertiary medical center in Omaha and a Community Living Center in Grand Island, Neb. Community-based outpatient clinics are located in Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Norfolk, and Bellevue, Neb., and Shenandoah, Iowa; and a contract outreach clinic in O'Neill, Neb. For more information, visit www.nebraska.va.gov.

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