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Simmons College Announces First Online Undergraduate Degree Program; Expands Successful Partnership With 2U, Inc.

Addition of two new online nursing programs demonstrates Simmons's commitment to online education

BOSTON, May 1, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- Simmons College today announced the launch of a new, online Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (RN to BSN). This is the school's first online undergraduate degree program. In addition, Simmons announced a new online Master of Science in Nursing program (RN to MSN). Both programs are designed for Registered Nurses holding an Associate Degree in Nursing and will be offered through a partnership with 2U, Inc. (NASDAQ: TWOU), the leading provider of cloud-based software-as-a-service solutions.

The two new programs are available through the Simmons College School of Nursing and Health Sciences's [Nursing@Simmons](#), which currently offers the school's highly successful online Master of Science in Nursing for Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP) program to students across the country. Additionally, the Simmons College School of Social Work recently announced an online Master of Social Work program, [SocialWork@Simmons](#), also offered in partnership with 2U. The online MSW is now accepting applications for classes beginning in July 2014.

"Just one year ago, we successfully launched our first online nursing program. The success of Nursing@Simmons has exceeded our expectations and has proven that a quality online program can meet the same academic rigor and standards found on campus," said Helen G. Drinan, president of Simmons College. "With Simmons now providing online degree offerings in both undergraduate and graduate programs, we are excited to be at the forefront of a paradigm shift in higher education."

Both the RN to BSN and RN to MSN programs begin accepting applications today, May 1. Classes will begin in October 2014. The programs will be delivered online with live, interactive sessions delivered on 2U's state-of-the-art learning platform. In the RN-MSN program, students will gain hands-on experience through clinical placements in or near their own communities.

"Last May, we began an important and productive partnership with Simmons College School of Nursing and Health Sciences," said Chip Paucek, co-founder and CEO of 2U, Inc. "To date, we've supported this highly regarded, liberal arts college through three cohorts of Nursing@Simmons students from 36 states — extending the prestigious Simmons brand far beyond the local Boston community. We couldn't be more pleased with our relationship with Simmons and with our portfolio expansion as a company. We now provide web-based platforms for bachelor's-, master's-, and doctoral-level programs with top-tier universities across the United States."

For more information on the new RN to BSN and RN to MSN programs, please visit onlinenursing.simmons.edu. For information on SocialWork@Simmons and the full media advisory (recently released), please visit socialwork.simmons.edu.

About Simmons College

[Simmons College](#) is a nationally recognized private university located in the heart of Boston with a history of visionary thinking and a focus on leadership and social responsibility. Simmons is the only undergraduate women's college in Boston and offers the nation's first MBA program designed specifically for women, as well as coeducational graduate programs in nursing and health sciences, liberal arts, library and information science, and social work. Graduates of the Simmons Master of Science in Nursing program consistently achieve a 100 percent pass rate on the Family Nurse Practitioner certification exam. The national average is 89 percent, according to the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Follow Simmons on Twitter at [@SimmonsCollege](#) and [@SimmonsNews](#).

About 2U, Inc. (NASDAQ: TWOU)

Founded in 2008 by a team of education and technology veterans, 2U enables leading colleges and universities to deliver their high-quality education to qualified students anywhere. Our cloud-based software-as-a-service platform provides schools with the comprehensive operating infrastructure they need to attract, enroll, educate, support, and graduate their students. Our mission is to enable the education our clients provide to reach its highest potential so students can reach theirs. To learn more, go to 2U.com. Be sure to follow us on LinkedIn (linkedin.com/company/2u), Twitter (twitter.com/2Uinc), and Facebook (facebook.com/2u).

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