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First Doctoral Graduation for School of Pharmacy

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – This is an important year for the Cedarville University School of Pharmacy. The professional program, like all programs nationally, can receive accreditation soon after it graduates its first class of pharmacists. That graduation ceremony is scheduled for May 2016.

For Marc Sweeney, Pharm.D., dean of the school of pharmacy, it's been a 10-year journey of building a brand-new professional program. For the 49 students who will step into a career in pharmacy after May's graduation, it's been invigorating, challenging and rewarding.

“To have our first group of pharmacists enter the profession from Cedarville commemorates the journey of successfully building this program,” said Sweeney. “I believe we've trained our students to be leaders, and I am excited to see how God uses them.”

The professional Doctor of Pharmacy program consists of four years of classroom and clinical training following a rigorous pre-pharmacy curriculum.

Not only have these students had opportunities to learn from pharmacists in the classroom, but they have also gained hands-on experience through clinical rotations, internships and various philanthropic endeavors.

Cedarville's school of pharmacy has developed into a notable program that has grown considerably in size. What initially began with the first pre-pharmacy class of 52 students has grown to 290 total students including 175 doctor of pharmacy students this year.

Students in the school of pharmacy have received national awards and have had the opportunity to participate in major national conventions. Some of the awards include: the Community Engagement

Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and the Pharmacy Practice Award from the U.S. Public Health Service. In addition, pharmacy faculty members have also contributed to hundreds of publications and made a variety of professional presentations around the country.

“Graduating our first class allows us to get Cedarville’s name into the professional pharmacy environment, because we will now have alumni in the field practicing the profession,” Sweeney said.

Although there is great anticipation for the year ahead — especially for the first graduating class — Sweeney still keeps his eye on building the program. That’s why the school of pharmacy will host a pharmacy mini-camp for high school students on October 29-30, 2015 and a Pharmacy Preview Day on April 16, 2016, to introduce the program to prospective students. The event will give students a chance to meet professors and current students, as well as learn about the program. To register, click [here](#).

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,711 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and leading student satisfaction ratings.