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Student Pharmacists and Nurses Serve Veterans Together

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Cedarville University’s Schools of Pharmacy and Nursing have joined forces to serve the veteran population in the Miami Valley. Students from both schools have formed an organization, the Veterans Outreach Committee, to treat and educate local veterans. The organization will hold its inaugural event on Nov. 14 from 6-8p.m. at the Veteran’s Day Summit in Xenia.

Greene County businesses offering veteran support services will be present at the summit, and the Outreach Committee will provide free glucose, cholesterol and blood pressure screenings. The student organization also plans to counsel veterans on proper medication use and disseminate educational pamphlets on diabetes and heart disease. Approximately 125 veterans and their families will attend.

“We are in a perfect position to serve the veteran population and as future health care professionals, we should get started serving now,” said Ankit Pandav, a second-year pharmacy doctorate student and the Veteran Outreach Committee founder and chair.

Pandav’s passion for veterans stems from his own combat tour in Afghanistan with the Field Artillery Branch of the United States Army. He is also the first military veteran to enroll in the school of pharmacy at Cedarville.

Some health care professionals are training the Veterans Outreach Committee members to effectively interact with the veteran population on a monthly basis starting in the spring.

“The Veterans Outreach Committee will give us more patient-care opportunities and provide us with a better understanding of the veteran population and how to best approach it,” explained Taylor Burns, a senior nursing major, president of the Student Nursing Association, and co-chair of the Outreach Committee. “Through this organization, we really want to strengthen the trust between veterans and health care professionals.”

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,760 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. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.