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Cross-Cultural Nursing Opportunity for Students

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- Eight students in Cedarville University's School of Nursing program will further their college education this summer by serving in a cross-cultural internship at Shalom Birthing Home in Antipolo, Philippines. The students will care for patients — from infants to expecting mothers.

Initially, four students begin their internship in May, with the remaining group coming one month later. The first group of students will serve between May 7 and June 4, with the second group working between June 3 and July 2. The group includes Eden Burson from Cedarville, Ohio, Erica Impraim from Crofton, Maryland, Hailey Fry from Apex, North Carolina, Kayla Maurer from Union Grove, Wisconsin, Mykaela Holst from Woodbury, New Mexico, Rebecca Woolard from Ishpeming, Michigan, and Rhea Dutta from Mason, Ohio.

This birthing home accommodates up to 300 women a week in a culture where home births are common because hospital care is expensive. Cedarville students will provide safe and competent nursing care at an affordable cost. According to the birthing home's sponsor page at Action International, a world-renowned global missions agency, patients are only asked to donate \$12 to contribute to prenatal, delivery, and postnatal care. This discounted amount enables patients to receive quality care at a fraction of the cost.

"Evangelism and discipleship are an integral part of Shalom Birthing Home's services," said Lisa Smithers, Assistant Professor of Nursing. "Expectant mothers are offered bible studies in tandem with education on topics regarding pregnancy, birth, and newborns. In addition to prenatal care, Cedarville students also offer kindness and compassion through gospel-centered conversations. They are then given personalized appointments with midwives and counseled at every step in their journey."

This cross-cultural experience allows students to practice a wide range of nursing and interpersonal skills in areas where healthcare is limited. In addition to the overseas internship, they can take cultural anthropology, personal evangelism, and cross-cultural interaction classes to complete their degree.

In addition to the Philippines, students have traveled to Central Asia, Eswatini, Guatemala, South Asia, Togo, and Zambia for medical mission trips.

Cedarville University's undergraduate nursing program is highly esteemed within the nursing profession, and recently, it was ranked #5 in Ohio by RNCareers.

This opportunity is one of many that Cedarville students have as part of the cross-cultural nursing minor offered through the school of nursing. Through these experiences, students can practice compassionate nursing care in an environment that encourages the students to eventually pursue a career in medical missions.

Whether through overseas summer mission trips or in-class mentoring and coursework here in Ohio, Cedarville University faculty are training the next generation of healthcare professionals to serve patients with kindness and respect.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 5,082 undergraduate, graduate, and dual-enrolled high school students in more than 175 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs and departments such as [the school of nursing](#), high graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and the #4 national ranking by the Wall Street Journal for student engagement. For more information about the University, visit cedarville.edu.

Written by Marielle Payton

Photo captions:

1- Cedarville nursing students pose in front of the HSC (Health Sciences Center) global outreach world map.