

YSU, St. E's combine nursing programs

By LAURIE MAGEE
Staff Reporter

St. Elizabeth Hospital Medical Center's 82-year-old nursing program was integrated with YSU's nursing program July 1.

YSU President Leslie Cochran signed a consortium agreement June 22 with St. Elizabeth President and Chief Executive Officer Sister Susan Schorsten to begin the transition.

The agreement between the two institutions will remain enacted for a minimum of 10 years.

Cochran said, "YSU's role will be to oversee the academic and administrative part of the degree, while St. E's will become the clinical site for the nursing majors at YSU."

The transition will begin in 1994 and continue over the next

few years. St. E's first responsibility is to gradually decrease the number of students admitted into their existing two-year nursing diploma program. YSU will then begin increasing their bachelor of science degree nursing enrollment accordingly.

St. E's enrollment is about 135 students. Fifty-six students recently earned diplomas. YSU's classes are at 250 students. Seventy-nine students earned bachelor's degrees at spring commencement.

According to the consortium agreement, St. E's will be responsible for providing a clinical site for YSU, assisting YSU with recruiting students, obtaining support for the program and giving priority to YSU for utilizing clinical resources.

Some of the resources included in the special consideration given to YSU by St. E's include: use of classrooms, faculty and

administrative offices, lounge areas, medical and nursing libraries, computer labs, critical care skills lab, cafeteria services, parking and routine emergency and health services.

YSU's responsibilities will be to uphold the joint offering of a bachelor of science degree in nursing, provide administrative control over the program and have students complete the course work at YSU and to receive their degrees from the university, hire qualified faculty and administrative staff to include the qualified members of the existing St. E's faculty and to appoint two people from St. E's who are mutually agreed upon by both St. E's and YSU to serve on the College of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee.

The department of nursing is organized in the new College of Health and Human Services at

YSU. Dean John Yemma of the Health and Human Services emphasized that while "St. Elizabeth's will be the major clinical site for our nursing majors, we will still use the facilities of other hospitals."

He continued, "Other hospitals are also welcome to join the consortium if they qualify and are interested."

The committee that worked on the consortium with Dr. Yemma included: Edward G. Baur, St. E's vice president of planning and education; Virginia Caputo, St. E's director of nursing education services; Dr. Robert Kennedy, St. E's director of medical education; Dr. Patricia McCarthy, YSU nursing department chair; Nancy Mosca, assistant professor of nursing and coordinator of the bachelor's degree program at YSU.

YSU Provost, Dr. James

Scanlon, said he welcomes the signing of the agreement with the hospital. "St. Elizabeth's Hospital is one of the major medical institutions in the area. Our nursing program is strengthened by this affiliation."

Sister Susan commented, "We want to maintain our strong commitment to the education of nurses and believe we can do this best in conjunction with a degree-granting institution. We are looking forward to strengthening our relationship with YSU as a neighbor and a partner."

The agreement also states that YSU institute a master's program in nursing. The university will begin seeking authorization from the Ohio Board of Regents for this program in 1994. Both YSU and St. E's agree that the Mahoning Valley has a great need for graduate level nurses.