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TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE THROUGH NURSING EDUCATION IN THE CATHOLIC AND DOMINICAN TRADITION

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (February 10, 2014) —

As part of its strategic plan for growth, Aquinas College has announced a multi-year transition plan for the School of Nursing. Under this plan, the College will begin to phase out its Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) degree program to plan for a four year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program. The School of Nursing will admit two more ASN classes, one in August 2014 and a second and final class in January 2015. This decision of the administration and faculty of the College reflects the Mission and Strategic Vision of Aquinas College and responds to the changes taking place in local and national healthcare. Pending the approval of the Tennessee Board of Nursing, this innovative community-population based BSN nursing program will be inaugurated in August, 2015.

Aquinas College began its Associate Degree in Nursing Program in 1983. Over the last 30 years the ASN program has graduated more than 1700 students and has made a substantial contribution to quality health care in the city of Nashville and beyond. Aquinas' residential life program and proposed BSN degree will increase the College's capacity to draw nursing students nationally and extend Aquinas' tradition of educating and forming excellent nurses. Brother Ignatius Perkins, O.P., Dean of the School of Nursing, reported that the College has been preparing for this transformation for several years. "Coupled with the Mission of Aquinas College, the Vision and Philosophy of the School of Nursing and the health care needs of the global community, we are responding to the call of the Church as elucidated by Pope Francis, to bring the healing ministry of Aquinas Nursing to all those in need of health and nursing care regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, color, lifestyle or ability to pay."

Aquinas College President, Sister Mary Sarah Galbraith, O.P., is confident that the transition will better prepare graduates for the demands of nursing in a variety of settings, including hospitals, community health centers, nurse-managed clinics, schools, patient's home and other community based settings. She states, "The excellent, comprehensive training for which Aquinas' School of Nursing is known will continue to impact the lives of many people. We are delighted about this new initiative and Aquinas College's capacity to be of even greater service to those in need of care."

ABOUT AQUINAS COLLEGE: Through a rigorous undergraduate and graduate curricula that emphasize the dignity of the human person, Aquinas College fosters the intellectual, moral, and professional development of students while preparing them for careers in the professions of education, nursing, and business. Faculty and students engage in a proactive teaching-advising partnership that enables students to cultivate rich interpersonal relationships in a Christ-centered, family-like environment. Personalized instruction in small classes ensures that each student achieves his or her full academic and personal potential. Founded in 1961 by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation, Aquinas College is located on a scenic 83-acre campus in the heart of Nashville and is the only four-year Catholic liberal arts college in middle and east Tennessee. For additional information, please visit www.aquinascollege.edu.