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TO: Academic Affairs Committee

FROM: Denise Wilson, Chair, Graduate Curriculum Committee
Kimberly Nance, Director of Graduate Studies

RE: Executive Summary – Post-Master's Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Certificate

This new online certificate prepares practitioners to focus on the diagnosis, treatment and management of acute and chronic health conditions often found among older adults. It addresses a shortage area that is already critical and continues to grow. Nationally only 4% of all Advanced Practice Nurses have gerontological certification, and by 2030 one in five Americans will be 65 or older.

This certificate option is available to individuals who already hold a master's degree in nursing. Candidates will complete a minimum of 33 hours of specialty courses from within the GNP sequence which is already being offered within the master's degree program, including NUR 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, and 449. Other needed coursework is determined on an Individual basis following transcript review.

While the certificate is expected to attract approximately 10 students in annual enrollment, Mennonite College of Nursing estimates that all of these courses could accommodate an additional 17 students. In that this certificate utilizes courses already being offered, no new courses or additional faculty or funding will be needed.