CREIGHTON STUDENTS TO FOCUS ON PATIENT SAFETY

Over 200 Creighton students from the fields of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, health administration and policy, social work and law came together on October 29 for an intensive, highly interactive day-long session on patient safety.

Fremont audiologist Evelyn McKnight, co-author of “A Never Event: Exposing the Largest Outbreak of Hepatitis C in American Health Care History,” delivered the keynote address. Her book explores a 2000-2001 outbreak in Fremont, Nebraska, in which 99 cancer patients, including McKnight, contracted hepatitis C after an oncologist directed nurses to reuse syringes.

“We want to challenge our future health care professionals to think in new ways about patient safety. They need to understand that no one nurse, physician or pharmacist can guarantee a patient’s safety; it takes a team of health professionals working together,” Costanzo said.

About 30 Creighton faculty and community leaders, including Joann Schaeffer, MD, Nebraska’s chief medical officer, and Dennis Berens, director of the Nebraska Office of Rural Health, participated.

A similar event will be held in spring 2011. Both events are sponsored by the Creighton Center for Health Services Research and Patient Safety. ■