St. John's College
Department of Nursing

For Immediate Release
December 11, 2013

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ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE GRADUATES FIRST ACCELERATED NURSING PROGRAM CLASS

SPRINGFIELD -- On Friday, December 13, the first-ever Accelerated Senior Nursing class will graduate from St. John's College of Nursing. The class of 14 students completed their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at St. John's College in just under two years.

"The Accelerated Nursing program is for students who have completed at least an undergraduate degree and the required nursing prerequisites prior to enrollment. Students in the accelerated program take the same nursing curriculum as our general students, graduating a semester earlier," said Brenda Jeffers, PhD, RN, Chancellor and Professor, St. John's College.

The Accelerated Senior Nursing program was created as a way to give established professionals interested in pursuing a career in nursing an option to complete coursework in a shorter time period. The program was launched as part of a Springfield community effort to advance the nursing profession funded by the Robert Words Johnson Partners Investing in Nursing grant. The Greater Springfield Chamber and the Community Foundation for Land of Lincoln directed the grant initiatives.

This year's graduating class is as follows:

Amy L. Angeli
Suzanne Marie Bagent
Stacey Nicole Bailey
Rebecca Sue Beyers
Neil A. Blevins

(more)

Sara Katherine Catalano

Brad M. Ellingson

Joseph Glen Garvey

Sarah Elizabeth Hemberger

Laci J. Maynerich

Jessica DeAnn Rose

Danielle LeAnne Spain

Emily R. Steinhauer

William S. Van Fossan

The graduation ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. Friday at the St. Francis of Assisi Church.

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About St. John's College, Department of Nursing

Founded in 1886 by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, St. John's College's mission is to educate students who provide competent, caring, client-centered professional services for a diverse population. The College provides an environment conducive to the intellectual, social, moral, spiritual and life-long professional development of graduates who can participate as citizens in this democratic society. The College engages in service and scholarship which advances the discipline of nursing and the provision of health care.