

of

D
B

Dedication

Character... clear things experience, spirit of a

Spring's ahead! The increased sunlight and energy that the season brings will only fuel the substantial energy afoot in the college. Thanks to the efforts of faculty, staff, and students, we have made significant progress toward achieving the college's strategic goal of creating an interprofessional education and interprofessional practice culture. These collective efforts have enhanced our capacity for providing a quality and an innovative education that prepares our students for meeting the needs of patients, families, and communities in the context of an ever-evolving health care system.

We now have IPE study abroad courses that offer our students the opportunity to learn about, with and from each other in international settings. The faculty team from the Dental Hygiene, Physical Therapy/Athletic Training and Nursing – led by Dr. Carolyn Rutledge – continues to use the standardized patient approach to create meaningful clinically based learning for stu-

IN THE NEWS

By Irvin B. Harrell

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) - which is frequently referred to as Obamacare and designed to dramatically expand health care coverage for most Americans - has been trumpeted as a historic regulatory triumph but also vilified and targeted for repeal.

Since the law's enactment in 2010, millions of previously un-insured Americans have signed up for health care coverage under ACA provisions that mandate participation through tax penalties for non-compliance. It is projected that up to 30 million people will lose coverage if the law is repealed.

Many Republicans oppose the Democrat-sponsored ACA for a variety of reasons, including its mandated and subsidized nature funded in large part from tax increases targeted at higher income brackets.

President Donald Trump promised during his campaign to dismantle the act and pulled advertisements for healthcare.gov, a website where individuals and families can sign up for ACA plans, soon after taking office in January. He also forbade efforts by the Department of Health and Human Services to encourage coverage. More recently, he signed an executive order directing federal agencies to waive enforcement of significant portions of the law.

Congressional Republicans have also begun efforts to dismantle the ACA, including the introduction, in January, of H.R. 370, a bill in the House of Representatives that would repeal the law.

Health care experts at Old Dominion University are concerned that scrapping the ACA will result in a number of public health problems.

Some of the key provisions of the ACA include:

- x A Medicaid expansion to 138 percent of the federal poverty level (\$15,415 for an individual and \$31,809 for a family of four in 2012) for individuals under age 65;
- x The creation of health insurance exchanges where individuals who do not have access to public coverage or affordable employer coverage are able to purchase insurance with premium and cost-sharing credits available to make cov-

