

Bastyr plans California branch after law allows licensed naturopaths



Sep 23, 2003, 2:41pm PDT

Bastyr University of Kenmore, a natural health sciences university, said it will pursue the establishment of a branch campus in California following passage of a law there allowing naturopathic doctors to practice as licensed doctors.

Naturopathic doctors in the state were limited to practicing as health consultants until the new law was signed by Gov. Gray Davis Monday.

California is the 13th state to allow graduates of Bastyr and other accredited institutions to practice to the full extent of their education and training, the university said in an announcement.

"California is a bellwether state and licensing our doctors there will have a ripple effect throughout the country," said Thomas C. Shepherd, president of Bastyr. "And, of course, it offers exciting new practice possibilities for our graduates, many of who come from California and would like to practice there."

Bastyr offers a a four-year, graduate-level program that includes basic medical sciences such as anatomy, biochemistry and pathophysiology, as well as the study and application of natural therapies such as clinical nutrition, botanical medicine, homeopathy, physical medicine and health counseling.