

Advancing Academic Leadership for New Deans

2022-2023 Directory



American Association *of Colleges of Nursing*

The Voice of Academic Nursing

Advancing Academic Leadership for New Deans

Led by the Center for Creative Leadership in collaboration with AACN, Advancing Academic Leadership for New Deans is a program that provides participants with an in-depth assessment experience, a range of content and exercises related to successful leadership, and the opportunity to establish a peer network that fosters long-term partnerships and collegial support.

The purpose of the Advancing Academic Leadership for New Deans program is to enhance the executive leadership skills of individuals who seek a high-level skill set to maximize opportunities and meet challenges. This program was developed for deans new to their role or transitioning into a dean role at a new college or university.

This 13-month program features four face-to-face meetings with work done virtually between sessions. Individuals will conduct a Learning Development project at their institution, and the top four projects will be presented at an AACN Conference.



Traci L. Alberti, PhD, FNP-BC
Merrimack College
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Dr. Traci Alberti is currently the Associate Dean of the School of Health Sciences and the Chair and Associate Professor for the new Department of Nursing at Merrimack College. She earned her PhD in Nursing and Health Promotion through the University of Massachusetts Lowell and is a Family & Community Health Nurse Practitioner. Her published work includes examination of health literacy and health information seeking in urgent care and adolescent populations. Dr. Alberti is currently investigating the effects of a health literacy and health information resource education program for English as second language learners in a community setting and is a Co-Investigator on the ARISE-MP Cardiovascular Outcomes Trial, currently under NIH review. Dr. Alberti played a pivotal leadership role for Merrimack College at the onset and through the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, serving as a member of the College Covid-19 Taskforce, Co-Director of the Covid-19 Mitigation Sub-Committee, Director of Covid-19 Campus Surveillance and Interim Director of Campus Health Services from February, 2020 through August, 2021. Dr. Alberti is in top consideration as the Founding Dean for a new School of Nursing at Merrimack College in the upcoming year.



Eileen Collins, PhD, RN
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Eileen Collins is the Dean and Professor at the UIC College of Nursing. She assumed this role on September 1, 2021. She was the Associate Dean for Research at UIC Nursing from 2018 to 2021 and a faculty member since 2002. She had a long research career at the Edward Hines Jr., VA Hospital. She began as the first ever nurse career development awardee, then became a research career scientist and finally the Acting Associate Chief of Staff for Research. Her research focuses on improving quality of life in patients with chronic illness, specifically COPD and Peripheral Arterial Disease, through increasing physical activity and enhancing physical function. She has garnered over \$41 million dollars in research funding throughout her career and has over 100 publications.



**Katherine Gregory, PhD, RN,
FAAN**

Boston College
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Dr. Gregory serves as Dean and Professor of Nursing at the Connell School of Nursing at Boston College. Prior to her current role, she was the Associate Chief Nursing Officer for Women's and Newborn Health, Research and Innovation at Brigham and Women's Hospital and an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. She received her BSN from SUNY Binghamton, her MSN from The University of Pennsylvania, and her PhD from Boston College.

Dr. Gregory began her work as a registered nurse 25 years ago in the Neonatal ICU. Her clinical research aims to improve health outcomes for preterm infants and their families. Dr. Gregory's lab is particularly focused on infant nutrition and gut health, and how these factors influence immune-mediated disease. Dr. Gregory is a dedicated mentor and widely published researcher. She is also the Editor of the Journal of Perinatal & Neonatal Nursing. In 2018, Dr. Gregory was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.



Allyssa Harris, PhD, RN

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Allyssa L. Harris, Ph.D, RN, WHNP-BC is the Department Chair and an Associate Professor at the Connell School of Nursing. She is a certified women's health nurse practitioner with over 20 years of experience. Dr. Harris teaches advanced practice women's health nursing and theoretical foundations in women's health and pediatric nursing as well as provides guest lectures in advanced practice pharmacology and research. In January 2017, Dr. Harris became the Director of the Women's Health NP program. Her research focuses on sexual risk behaviors particularly among adolescents including parent-adolescent sexual communication and media influences on sexual Dr. Harris has numerous publications related to parent-child communication, media influences of sexual risk, and women's health conditions. She is a member of the New England Regional Black Nurses Association, the National Black Nurses Association, AWHONN, NPWH, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) and is currently President of the Alpha Chi Chapter of STTI at CSON.



Versie Johnson-Mallard, PhD

Saint Ambrose University
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Versie Johnson-Mallard is a recognized national leader with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), National League for Nursing (NLN) and American Academy of Nursing (AAN) who works as an agent for collaborative opportunities for faculty, staff and students. Her strategic vision for the College of Nursing is to work collectively with other academic units on building research, scholarship and education initiatives.

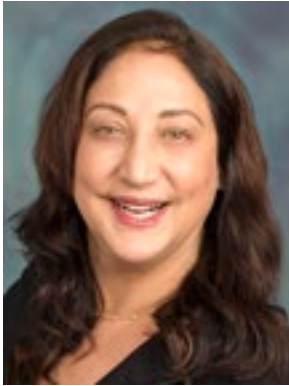
Dean Johnson-Mallard led funding collaborations with NASEM and National Institutes of Health (NIH) and engaged academic institutions, such as the UF Health Cancer Center, in developing interprofessional scientific innovations on cancer technology, prevention and management. Her research focus is on first generation and underserved populations of health care professionals and health consumers in the field of reproductive health methodology, culturally specific interventions as well as identifying strategies which may be used to inhibit the oncogenic activity of high-risk HPV genotypes.



Jane Lassetter, PhD, RN, FAAN

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Jane Hansen Lassetter is the Dean and a Professor in the College of Nursing at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where she previously served as faculty and the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. Her leadership during the COVID pandemic has led to innovative solutions to find the clinical experiences students need while safeguarding patients. One of her goals as a Dean is to unify the faculty and staff in supporting each other as well as students. She serves in the profession as the President of the Western Institute of Nursing (WIN) and Past-President of the International Family Nursing Association. As President of WIN, she aims to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion and has formed a taskforce to examine structural racism and any other challenges to inclusion within the organization. As President of the International Family Nursing Association, she advocated for migrant/refugee families in official statements addressing atrocities, such as those at the U.S-Mexico border. Dr. Lassetter advanced family nursing through leading extraordinary international conferences in Denmark, Spain, and Washington DC. Dr. Lassetter received BS and MS degrees from Brigham Young University, a PhD from Oregon Health and Science University, and a Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Ethics from Creighton University.



Amy Nichols, EdD, MSN, RN
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Amy Nichols guides program leaders, overseeing the School of Nursing's four graduate-degree programs and outcomes. She supports faculty in their instruction of students, examines faculty workload, ensures the quality and approval of curriculum and collaborates with UC Davis campus units. Nichols has more than 30 years of academic experience and is emeritus faculty at San Francisco State University School of Nursing for her 20-plus years of service. Her academic interests include the preparation of new nurses as leaders in evidence-based practice, leadership, advocacy for diverse patient populations and change agents to support a strong nursing workforce. She also has extensive knowledge about the use of simulation-based learning and transforming curriculums using this methodology. As professor, Nichols serves as a specialty content expert in maternal child health and evidence-based practice for the Master's Entry Program in Nursing. Nichols also serves as chair of Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership Graduate Group, is a member of the Leadership Transition Advisory Committee and formerly served as the school's director of simulation. She is an editorial board member for the Nursing Administration Quarterly and contributing editor for PSNet, an online resource in patient safety.



Cheryl Oetjen, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
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Cheryl Oetjen is the Director of the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services. She is an Associate Professor and teaches across the curriculum with a primary focus on the DNP program. Her teaching expertise is in leadership, evidence-based practice, and DNP Projects. She enjoys building new courses and programs to ensure career-ready graduates. She oversees over 8 million dollars in grant-funded initiatives. She currently holds the treasurer position for the VACN. Prior to working at GMU, she held many leadership positions in both hospitals and community organizations. She also served as the Advisor for the Nurse Leadership Institute of Virginia facilitating the professional development of entry-level nurse leaders in Virginia. Her work is collaborative by nature with the goal of improving the health of the community by meeting the individual needs of the patients. She holds an autonomous nurse practitioner license in Virginia and maintains a clinical practice in the faculty-led Mason and Partners (MAP) Clinics. Her passion for caring for the underserved in the community, especially the care of children and adolescents aligns with the strategic goals of Mason. Her CliftonStrengths include Relator, Achiever, Learner, Developer, and Belief.



Nancy Reese, DNP, RN, CNE

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Nancy Reese DNP, RN, CNE was appointed director of the Nursing Program at Carthage College Kenosha, Wisconsin in August 2021. Dr. Reese came to Carthage after 14 years at a private university in the Chicagoland area. There, she served in various academic positions, including professor, assistant dean of curricular initiatives, and interim dean of nursing. She has specialties of community health and medical surgical nursing. She has acted as a team leader for 24 missions and a team member for 2 missions around the world. The past 16 trips have been to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Teams were up to 45 people to serve those with needs since 2002. She is a volunteer with her local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and secured a grant for that group in 2021. She has a chapter in the nursing textbook, *Spiritual Care in Nursing Practice*. She has presented posters and spoken about parish nursing, theology, dedicated education units in nursing, and higher education at conferences, retreats, and networking events. Her research areas include spiritual distress and nursing students, improving student/faculty relationships, creating clinical relationships through dedicated education units, service learning and quality improvement. Nancy particularly finds joy in mentoring nurses into faculty roles.



Janelle Sokolowich, Ph.D. MSN/Ed, RN

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Dr. Sokolowich is an accomplished visionary academic leader. Dr. Sokolowich serves as the Academic Vice President/Dean for the College of Health Professions at Western Governors University (WGU), providing leadership to undergraduate, graduate nursing programs and health professions programs. Her goal is to close the equity and access gap in the health professions by providing degree programs and certifications to student who seek to advance their education. Her passion for student success, specifically the underserved, is marked by her drive for innovation to reach all who desire a degree. Her research includes the successful orientation of nursing faculty and intentional, focused academic support of culturally and linguistically diverse students. She is a member of the inaugural American Association of College of Nursing, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Leadership Network, National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society, and numerous other academic societies. She serves as an American Nurses Association Mentor and is a National League for Nursing Writing Scholar. Dr. Sokolowich earned her bachelor's and master's in the science of nursing degrees from the University of Phoenix and Ph.D. in Education, with Distinction from Capella University.