



American Association  
of Colleges of Nursing  
*The Voice of Academic Nursing*

AACN LEADS  
TRANSFORMING ACADEMIC NURSING LEADERSHIP

# Elevating Leaders in Academic Nursing

*An AACN LEADS Program Designed for Aspiring Deans  
and Senior Faculty in Leadership Roles*

## Directory

ELAN Cohort VI- 2024-2025



**Hilary Barnes, PhD, NP-C, FAANP**

Widener University  
Assistant Professor; DNP Program Director

**Hilary Barnes, PhD, NP-C, FAANP** is an Associate Professor and Director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program in the Widener University School of Nursing. She is a health services researcher and nationally-recognized expert on the nurse practitioner workforce. Her work examines the role of the nurse practitioner to improve care delivery and outcomes, as well as role transition for the novice nurse practitioner and finding ways to support new nurse practitioners as they enter clinical practice. She teaches in the DNP and PhD programs at Widener and is passionate about mentoring students to explore their interests as they develop their own clinical and research scholarship.



**LaWanda Baskin, PhD, FNP-C**

University of Southern Mississippi  
School Director

**Dr. LaWanda Baskin** is an accomplished nursing professional with a robust academic and clinical background. She is an Associate Professor, currently serving as the Interim Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at The University of Southern Mississippi's College of Nursing and Health Professions. Dr. Baskin holds a Ph.D. in Nursing Leadership (2017) and a BSN (1997) from The University of Southern Mississippi, and an MSN in Family Practice Nursing (2012) from Alcorn State University. Her research focuses on 1) cultural nursing and 2) innovative teaching strategies in higher education. Clinically, Dr. Baskin has extensive experience as a Nurse Practitioner and Registered Nurse in various healthcare settings. She has made significant contributions to nursing education through research, publications, and presentations at national and international conferences. She is recognized for her work in cultural competency, health literacy, and patient advocacy. She is a graduate of the 2022 AACN Diversity Leadership Institute. Dr. Baskin actively participates in professional organizations, serving on advisory boards, committees, and task forces to advance nursing practice and education. She is a dedicated mentor to doctoral students, guiding them in their research and clinical projects. Her excellence in teaching and leadership has been acknowledged through multiple awards, including nomination for the MS IHL Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Award, the recipient of the USM Diversity Leadership Award and Alumni of the Year from the College of Nursing and Health Professions.





**Lynn Beeler, PhD, MSN, RN, FNP, CHSE, MEDSURG-BC**

University of Tennessee-Knoxville  
Associate Clinical Professor/ABS N Program Chair

**Dr. Beeler**, a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, College of Nursing, commenced her nursing journey by earning an ADN from East Tennessee State University. Subsequently, she pursued a BSN from the same institution and went on to earn an MSN with a concentration in Nursing Administration from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her career in nursing leadership spans various roles in acute care settings, including unit manager and director across two hospitals within a large Healthcare System. Additionally, she obtained a Post-Master’s Certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

Dr. Beeler furthered her academic pursuits by earning a PhD in Educational Psychology and Research with a concentration in Adult Learning from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her extensive experience in adult health/critical care spans over many years, during which she has dedicated herself to undergraduate nursing education for more than 12 years. Currently serving as the program chair for the Accelerated BSN program, she also teaches throughout the ABSN curriculum.

Passionate about bridging the gap between academia and clinical practice, Dr. Beeler leads initiatives in classroom and clinical innovation. She holds certifications as a board-certified Medical-Surgical nurse and a Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator. Her research interests encompass self-directed learning, resilience, emotional intelligence, and strategies to mitigate nursing burnout.



**Maria Bluhm, PhD, RN, MSCI, FAAN, ANEF**

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
Professor and Director of International Programs

**Dr. Lapiz-Bluhm** is a full professor and the Director of International Programs at the School of Nursing, University of Texas Health San Antonio. She is very passionate about the health and welfare of vulnerable populations. She has been engaged in translational clinical research on posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as well as education-based and community service-based research. She established the Filipino American (FA) Patient-Centered Outcomes Research “Nayon” (Village) Networks in 15 US States to improve patient outcomes among FAs. A recipient of multiple local, regional, national, and international awards, she is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN, 2019) and also a Academy of Nurse Educators Fellow (ANEF, 2021). She currently chairs the Planning Committee of the Annual AAN Conference. She is also the Region Chair of the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce Central Texas Region. She is Honorary Medical Commander Emeritus of the 149th Wing of the Texas Air National Guard and the Commander Civic Leader of the United States Air Force’s Air Education and Training (AETC). She is the Chair of the Research Committee, Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA), and a Board Member of the Filipino Nursing Diaspora (FiND), a global advocacy for Filipino nurses.





**Angel Boling, PhD, RN**

Baptist Health Sciences University  
 Baccalaureate Program Chair, Associate Professor of Nursing

**Dr. Angel Boling** is an Associate Professor of Nursing and has served as the Baccalaureate Program Chair since 2018 at Baptist Health Sciences University. She obtained her Associate Degree in Nursing from Northwest Community College, Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing from University of Mississippi Medical Center, and her Master’s Degree in Nursing Education with a specialization in Critical Care from the University of Memphis. She obtained her Doctorate of Philosophy in Nursing from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with a research focus in simulation and interprofessional education. Her nursing career expands 28 years where she began her bedside nursing career working 15+ years in a Level 1 Trauma and Burn Center and served in a variety of roles that include bedside nurse, preceptor, charge nurse, clinical unit educator, and leadership/management positions. She began working as a clinical adjunct faculty in 2004 and transitioned to a full time faculty position in 2011 at Baptist Health Sciences University. In her current role as program chair, she serves in both administrative and teaching positions within the BSN program, as well as assisting with simulation experiences for the Acute Gerontology Acute Care Doctoral program.

Her passion and research continues to be in examining the use of simulation as a teaching modality to enhance interprofessional communication/collaboration in health science programs, as well as integration of simulation in the didactic setting to enhance critical thinking and clinical judgment skills for undergraduate nursing students.



**Lindsay Bouchard, DNP, PMHNP-BC**

University of Arizona  
 Interim Advanced Nursing Practice and Science Division Vice Chair and DNP Program Director

**Dr. Bouchard** has been a full-time faculty member at the University of Arizona for 12 years and currently serves as the DNP Program Director and Vice Chair of the Advanced Nursing Practice and Science Division, leading over 50 faculty. Her nursing career began by obtaining a direct-entry master’s degree from McGill University, during which she developed a strengths-based approach to caring for patients with severe mental illness. In her subsequent work as a nurse, preceptor, and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, she has worked in multidisciplinary teams caring for psychiatric patients in inpatient and outpatient settings. She is currently involved in three HRSA-funded grant programs (totaling \$10.6 million dollars of funding) that support sexual assault nurse examiners and FNP, PMHNP, and nurse midwifery students to train and provide care in rural, border, and medically underserved communities. Her research projects address innovative teaching strategies, faculty practice, and enhancing nurse resiliency to promote academic and professional performance.





**Michelle Broadbent, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC**

Florida Atlantic University  
Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Program

**Dr. Broadbent** is an Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Program at the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. Dr. Broadbent earned an Associate Degree in Nursing from Copiah Lincoln Community College, in 1997, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Delta State University in 2005, a Master’s Degree in Nursing with Family Nurse Practitioner certification from Delta State University in 2008 and her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Chamberlain University in 2022. As a Family Nurse Practitioner, her main area of practice was in Primary Care of Veterans within the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare system. She also has clinical experience in urgent care, home health and long-term care settings. As an educator, Dr. Broadbent has experience teaching in both graduate and undergraduate nursing programs. In addition to her current role as Assistant Dean, she also continues to teach in the Undergraduate nursing program in the areas of Pharmacology and Leadership.

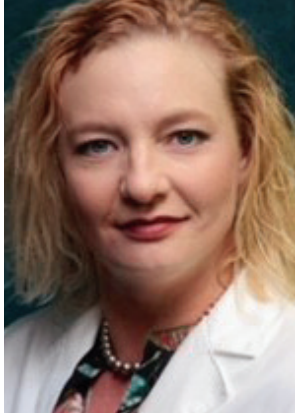


**Frederick Brown, DNP, RN, CENP**

Rush University  
Director Generalist Education

**Dr. Brown** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Adult Health and Gerontological at Rush University. Dr. Brown currently serves as the Director of Generalist Education for the Clinical Nurse Leader program. Dr. Brown received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Rush University in 1989. After graduating, Dr. Brown took a role as a staff nurse in the operating rooms at Rush University Medical Center in orthopedics. From this experience, he completed a Master of Science degree in Nursing in 1994 with a specialty in musculoskeletal nursing. He worked in several roles as an orthopedic clinical nurse specialist as a clinician and educator, before taking a position as a Practitioner/Teacher at Rush University College of Nursing in 2006. Dr. Brown worked in the College of Nursing, teaching in the Doctor of Nursing Practice, pre-licensure, and post-licensure programs. In 2010, Dr Brown chose a leadership position as unit director over an orthopedic surgical unit. Dr. Brown’s leadership experiences continued as he later held roles as an Associate Vice President over multiple operational nursing departments. Dr. Brown returned to Rush University College of Nursing in 2021 as the Director of Generalist Education. Dr. Brown is a co-faculty advisor for Men in Nursing at Rush University and was awarded Best Schools for Men in Nursing in 2023 through the American Association for Men in Nursing. Dr Brown’s leadership includes 22 years of military service, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserve. He completed the American Organization of Nurse Leaders’ Nurse Manager Fellowship Program in 2013.





**Candace Burton, PhD, RN, AFN-BC, FAAN**

University of Nevada-Las Vegas  
 Associate Dean for Advanced Education (Interim)

**Dr. Candace W. Burton** is an Associate Professor of Nursing and the Interim Associate Dean for Advanced Education at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Her research focuses on stress and trauma, particularly in the context of health disparities, and she leads the UNLV Addictions Interdisciplinary Research Development Area (IRDA). Dr. Burton is a trained qualitative and mixed methodologist, and her scholarship and teaching encompass the social determinants of health, the trauma of violence and abuse, and working with vulnerable populations. She holds a PhD in Nursing Research from the University of California, San Francisco and is certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center in Advanced Forensic Nursing. She also holds a post-graduate certificate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion from Cornell University and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. Burton's innovative work has received both national and international accolades from advocates, researchers, and community-based care providers. She practices as a forensic nurse consultant, and her research has been funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She teaches at all levels of nursing education and serves as an Associate Editor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Clinical Nursing Research.



**Teresa Cahill-Griffin, DNP-RNC-OB**

University of Vermont  
 Interim Vice-Chair/Program Director Undergraduate Nursing

**With over three decades** of experience in nursing, Teresa has dedicated her career to the field of obstetrical nursing. Currently serving as the Vice Chair and Program Director of the undergraduate nursing program at the University of Vermont, she plays a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of nursing professionals. As an active member and current President of the Kappa Tau chapter of Sigma and a longstanding member of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), she remains committed to advancing the standards of care and promoting excellence within her specialty. Teresa's passion for education, coupled with her extensive clinical expertise, ensures that she brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to her role. Her dedication to the nursing profession is evident in her continued efforts to mentor students, advocate for quality patient care, and contribute to the advancement of nursing practice.





### **Kathleen Clark, DNP, RN, PHN**

Augsburg University  
Chair, Executive Director of the Health Commons, and  
Associate Professor

**In 2009, Dr. Kathleen “Katie” Clark** began her teaching role at Augsburg University in the Department of Nursing. Since that time, her roles have expanded as she is now the chair of the department, has been appointed as the Executive Director of the Augsburg Health Commons and serves as a member of the Mission and Identity Division at the university. The Augsburg Health Commons are nursing-led drop-in centers that focus on radical hospitality and building trusting relationships with people in marginalized communities. These sites allow students to gain a deeper understanding of the social determinants of health and learn firsthand of issues that create otherness in healthcare systems. Katie’s primary teaching responsibility is in the graduate nursing program, teaching courses that focus on issues of social justice, health inequities, and civic engagement. She earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice in Transcultural Leadership, her Master of Arts in Transcultural Care from Augsburg University, and her Bachelor of Arts in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Before coming to Augsburg, Katie previously worked for eight years as a nurse in both oncology hematology and the medical ICU. She has traveled to 20 countries and participated in many local volunteer programs.



### **Emma Cuenca, DNP, RN, CCRN-K, CNS**

University of California-Los Angeles  
Program Director, Prelicensure Program

**Dr. Emma Cuenca** is an Adjunct Associate Professor and the Director of Prelicensure Programs (BSN and MECN) at the UCLA School of Nursing. She earned her BSN from Far Eastern University, Manila, Philippines, MSN Clinical Nurse Specialist in Gerontology from California State University-Dominguez Hills, and Doctorate in Nursing Practice from University of San Diego. With a rich background that includes 37 years at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center, Dr. Cuenca’s professional career evolved from a staff nurse into leadership positions where she championed innovation and excellence in emergency and critical care nursing practice. A black belt-trained CNS in Quality Improvement (QI), Dr. Cuenca led transformative QI and Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) initiatives, elevating patient care standards in pain management, hospital-acquired infection prevention, & patient education. At UCLA, she imparts her vast knowledge and experience through teaching Advanced Medical-Surgical Nursing, Geriatrics, Leadership, and Quality Improvement courses. Her scholarship focuses on cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and dementia among the Asian & Pacific Islander population. Recognized for her commitment to excellence in education, she was one of the UCLA Summer Institute Scientific Teaching Fellows in 2019. She is an avid football fan and loves to travel enriching her life with new experiences.



**Tina Delouchry, DNP, FNP-BC**

Simmons University  
 Director of Direct Entry MSN Program

**Tina Delouchry**, DNP, FNP-BC, Professor of Practice, is the Director of the Direct Entry MSN Family Nurse Practitioner program at Simmons University. Since joining Simmons University in 2015, she has held various roles both in the online and campus nursing programs. As a board-certified family nurse practitioner, her clinical practice experience includes primary care, urgent care, and college health. She received a BSN from the University of Pittsburgh (2001), an MSN from the University of Washington (2005), and a DNP from Simmons University (2022). Her research interest is new graduate nurse practitioner preparedness for practice and role transition. She is passionate about preparing the future nursing workforce to enter the profession with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to address current healthcare challenges. Dr. Delouchry enjoys spending time with family and watching her three children play sports.



**Jennifer Deneault, DNP, RN**

Curry College  
 Assistant Professor/RN-BS Program Coordinator

**Dr. Deneault** is an Assistant Professor and Chairperson at Curry College School of Nursing in Milton, Ma. She earned her BS in Nursing from Curry College, and her Master’s (nursing education) from South University and her DNP (Executive Leadership) from Simmons University. Along with her administrative role, she teaches in the baccalaureate, master’s and accelerated nursing tracks. In her role she supports curriculum development, oversight of program development and creating clinical partnerships. She has a special interest in mentorship of nursing faculty and transitioning nurses to practice. Prior to joining Curry College, Dr. Deneault maintained a leadership position in acute care across different settings. She was dedicated to supporting the professional development of staff, implementing new programs and policies, and attending leadership conferences offered by The Organization of Nurse Leaders. Dr. Deneault is a member of the Massachusetts Rhode Island League for Nursing, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, National League for Nursing, Eastern Nursing Research Society, Northeastern Organization of Nurse Educators, American Nurses Association, and an active member of Sigma Theta Tau Chapter at Large acting as the faculty counselor for her chapter.







### **Teresa Dodd-Butera, PhD, RN**

Azusa Pacific University  
Associate Dean for Research; and Professor, Public Health  
and Doctoral Programs for APU School of Nursing

**Teresa Dodd-Butera**, PhD, RN/DABAT, is a registered nurse and a board-certified toxicologist (Diplomate, American Board of Applied Toxicology/ DABAT). She holds a Doctor of Philosophy, Concentration: Arts and Sciences, with a specialization in Molecular Toxicology and International Health; and two Master's degrees – MSN, Nurse Educator Concentration; and MS in Public Health, Concentration: Toxicology. Her research focus is on acute and chronic exposures in pregnancy and placental toxicology. Research investigations include biomarkers, glutathione-S-transferase (GST) genotypes, and birth outcomes from exposures to lead, cadmium, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in an obstetric population in Baja California. She is also interested in multiple factors that affect global and national maternal-child and family health issues, including families with special needs. She has traveled to Mexico, Ireland, South Africa, and Vietnam for educational and research interests. Before joining Azusa Pacific University as a public health faculty member, her leadership positions included serving as Co-Director for the Center for Health Equity, Assistant Director of the BSN program, and Graduate Coordinator for the MSN program at CSU San Bernardino. Her teaching experience is multidisciplinary, and includes students, such as nurses, physicians, pharmacologists, toxicologists, and graduate and undergraduate public health students.



### **Michelle Edmonds, DNP, MSN, RN**

Virginia Commonwealth University  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and  
Department Chair of Family and Community Health Nursing

**Dr. Edmonds** is from Richmond, Virginia, and is currently the Associate Dean for the Undergraduate Program and Department Chair at Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Nursing. She is also the Betsy A. Bampton Endowed Professor of Nursing. Dr. Edmonds has been a nurse for over 28 years. Her practice career was for 12 years in the emergency Department, where she served as a charge nurse and as the department director for 11 years. Her career in academia started after this in 2009, where she left bedside practice and became the Inaugural Dean for Nursing at Southside Virginia Community College. In this role Dr.

Edmonds also was the assistant Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Workforce Services, and served as the interim dean for Humanities, Social Science, and Business. Dr. Edmonds served in this capacity for 13 years until she left in 2022 to join VCU's School of Nursing. Dr. Edmonds holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University, a Master's Degree in Nursing Leadership and Organizational Systems, a Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing Education, and a Doctorate of Nursing Practice with a leadership concentration, all from Old Dominion University. Dr. Edmond's scholarly interest includes the scholarship of teaching and learning and emotional intelligence. When she is not busy shaping the nurses of tomorrow, she spends time with her 17-year-old Son, and three doodle dogs, Blaze, Cali, and Penny.



**Melicia Escobar, DNP, CNM, WHNP-BC, FACNM**

Georgetown University  
Assistant Professor & Program Director

**Dr. Melicia Escobar** is an Assistant Professor at Georgetown University (GU) where she serves as the Program Director for the Nurse-Midwifery/Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP) & WHNP Programs. Her scholarly passions include midwifery, sexual and reproductive health, and developing robust and inclusive didactic and clinical curricula that illuminates health equity and the racism and other biases that undermine it.

She is a 2024 American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Health Equity Award recipient, Principal member of the GUMC (GU Medical Center) Teaching Academy in the educational leadership domain, 2021 March of Dimes Graduate Nursing Scholarship awardee, 2020-2021 GU Gender+ Justice Initiative Fellow, and a 2017 American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) LEAD Fellow. She has published articles in peer-reviewed journals and high-impact midwifery textbooks. She is the Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (JEDI) Consulting Editor for the Journal of Midwifery & Women’s Health. Dr. Escobar is a Fellow and an active member of the ACNM currently serving as Co-chair of the Core Competencies Sub-committee, and formerly, Treasurer on the board of the Pennsylvania Affiliate and Chair of the ACNM Bylaws Committee. Dr. Escobar is a graduate of Haverford College (BA, Anthropology), Georgetown University (BSN), and University of Pennsylvania’s NM/WH Program (MSN), and Georgetown University (DNP).



**Jihane Frangieh, PhD, MSN,BSN,RN,CNE**

Johns Hopkins University  
Assistant Professor, Director of the MSN Healthcare Organizational Leadership Programs (HOL)

**Dr. Frangieh** is a passionate nurse leader with over 20 years of nursing experience, including a decade in leadership roles both in the U.S. and internationally. She currently serves as an Assistant Professor and the Director of the MSN Healthcare Organizational Leadership Programs at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, where she is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of nurse leaders. As an emerging health services researcher, Dr. Frangieh is devoted to improving healthcare quality and work environments. She has successfully secured funding for leadership workshops that empower nurse managers and elevate nursing practice. Her insights are shared at national and international conferences, where she highlights innovative strategies in nursing leadership. Dr. Frangieh’s diverse background brings a wealth of fresh perspectives to her roles. She is committed to creating inclusive, thriving environments and is passionate about teaching, coaching, and mentoring students. Her goal is to inspire and equip future nurses for impactful careers in leadership, policy, and education. In addition to her academic and professional contributions, Dr. Frangieh is the President-Elect of the Sigma Theta Tau Nu Beta at Large chapter and serves as the editor of The Maryland Nurse, the official journal of Maryland Nurse Association. Her dedication to the field has been recognized with many awards, including the Dorsye Russel Nursing Leadership Award and the Martha M. Borlick Research Award.



**Alexandra Garcia, PhD, RN, FAAN**

University of Texas-Austin  
 Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs

**Alexandra A. García**, PhD, RN, FAAN is the inaugural Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing and a Professor in the Family, Public Health, and Nursing Leadership Division. Dr. García is also a courtesy Professor of Population Health at the Dell Medical School where she served as the inaugural Chief of the Division of Community Engagement and Health Equity. She recently served the UT Austin School of Nursing as Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs and as Graduate Advisor.

Dr. García is an experienced and dedicated advocate, educator, and mentor. Dr. García’s research focuses on social, cultural, environmental, and economic factors that influence how people self-manage chronic diseases and symptom experiences with the aim to improve health and inequities among marginalized populations. In particular, she has conducted research with Latinx adults with type 2 diabetes and other co-occurring chronic illnesses in community settings. She has tested ways to help people manage their diabetes and depressive symptoms. Dr. García is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and of the Texas Public Health Association. She earned her Diploma in Registered Nursing from The Union Memorial Hospital School of Nursing; Bachelor of Science from The College of Notre Dame of Maryland, Master of Science from The University of Maryland at Baltimore, and PhD in nursing from The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing.



**Kelly Goebel, RN, BSN, MSN-ACNP, BC, DNP**

Florida Gulf Coast University  
 Assistant Professor and BSN and ABSN Program Director

**Dr. Goebel** is an Associate Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers, Florida. She currently holds the position of BSN and ABSN Program Director. With over 34 years in nursing, Dr. Goebel has experience in critical care, emergency and flight nursing. Dr. Goebel holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with an emphasis in social work from Western Illinois University, a BSN from St. Joseph’s College of Nursing (now the University of St. Francis), an MSN from Loyola University Chicago and a DNP from the University of South Florida. In addition to her role in academia, she is certified as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP-BC) with clinical expertise in critical care nursing and translation of evidence based practice. Prior to joining FGCU, Dr. Goebel was a BSN Program Director for a large, private university in Florida and a Regional Clinical Coordinator for an online nurse practitioner program. She served as the Chief Flight Nurse for a hospital based aeromedical program. Dr. Goebel is a member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, Sigma Theta Tau and the Collier County Nurse Practitioner Coalition. Her scholarship interests include early recognition of clinical deterioration, sepsis and BSN student success.





**Melinda Hass, DNP, RN, FNP-BC**

University at Buffalo-SUNY  
Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs; Clinical  
Assistant Professor

**Melinda Haas** is a clinical assistant professor for the UB SON and a family nurse practitioner at East Aurora Pediatrics. Her areas of interest include pediatric and adolescent care. She received her BS in Nursing from St. John Fisher College and DNP from the UB SON. She is also currently a PhD student in UB's information science program.



**Amanda Haverhals, DNP, RN, CNL**

Morningside University  
Associate Professor of Nursing - Head of the Undergraduate

**Amanda Haverhals, DNP, RN, CNL** is an Associate Professor in the Nylen School of Nursing at Morningside University. She serves as the undergraduate department head and coordinator for the RN-BSN program. Dr. Haverhals serves as one of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) peer reviewers for submissions of the Essentials Tool Kit Best Practice Teaching Strategies along with serving as the Essentials Champion. In 2021, she was awarded a Summer Undergraduate Research Project grant, she has presented her doctoral work at the Avera Research and Evidence-Based Practice Conference and AACN's Transform Conference. Her doctoral work, "An Educational Intervention to Enhance the Performance of Peer Feedback", was published in the Journal of Nursing Administration. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau and the Iowa League of Nursing.





**Sarah Hubbell, DNP, FNP-C, CNL**

University of San Francisco  
 Program Director, Assistant Professor

**Sarah Hubbell** is a clinician and educator with over twenty years of nursing experience that includes emergency nursing, urgent care nurse practitioner roles, and inpatient quality improvement. She is currently an Assistant Professor and BSN Program Director at the University of San Francisco School of Nursing and Health Professions. She is also a Quality Nurse Consultant with Kaiser Permanente Northern California Regional Quality and Data Analytics, where she is part of the virtual nursing team supporting the award-winning Advance Alert Monitor program. Dr. Hubbell’s scholarly work has focused on improving end of life care, including promotion of advance care planning for underserved and homeless populations and training nurse practitioners and other clinicians to engage in advance care planning conversations. She is passionate about promoting evidence-based practice, improving quality of life, and nurturing the next generation of nurses. Dr. Hubbell’s educational background includes degrees from University of San Francisco, Johns Hopkins University, and Smith College. When not working, you can find her hiking the beautiful trails of the San Francisco Bay Area or practicing a musical instrument.



**Khara’ Jefferson, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CHC**

Frontier Nursing University  
 Program Director for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

**In 2017, Dr. Khara’ Jefferson** earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from Frontier Nursing University, solidifying her commitment to advancing healthcare. Her dedication to excellence led her to join the faculty, where she fostered her passion for quality improvement (QI) as the DNP Program Director and course coordinator for the clinical project preparation course. She brings a wealth of diverse experiences to her role, as her career began in academia as a seventh-grade science teacher before transitioning to healthcare. Khara’s dedication to positively and compassionately serve others earned her a DAISY award for exemplary faculty performance.

Beyond academia, she is an accomplished entrepreneur and a certified health coach specializing in holistic wellness and functional medicine, particularly gut health. She has appeared as a gut health expert on several podcasts. She enjoys writing blogs and providing sensible health tips to people in easy-to-understand language to bridge some healthcare gaps. She enjoys speaking and inspiring others to achieve their health goals.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Khara’ indulges in her love for reading, global travel with her family, and retail therapy. Her multifaceted background, coupled with her unwavering dedication, positions her as a valuable asset within her communities.





**Angela Johnson, EdD RN**

University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Assistant Dean

**Dr. Johnson** is an assistant professor and assistant dean at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing (UNMC CON). Since assuming the role of assistant dean of the Northern Division in 2023, Dr. Johnson has been pivotal in supporting the implementation and delivery of both undergraduate and graduate programs within the division. Dr. Johnson received her master’s degree in nursing leadership from UNMC and a doctorate in education from Bryan College of Health Sciences. Her dedication to leadership in nursing education was recognized with the Virginia Tilden Leadership Development Award in 2024.

Beginning her academic career in 2015 as an instructor at UNMC, Dr. Johnson has extensive experience in teaching and coordinating various courses across multiple programs, including undergraduate traditional, accelerated, and graduate levels. Her scholarly work is centered on educational research, particularly in academic success coaching, interdisciplinary collaboration, and student wellness. Committed to enhancing the educational experience of nursing students, Dr. Johnson is dedicated to fostering their academic success and overall well-being.



**Peninnah Kako, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, APNP**

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Associate Professor

**Dr. Kako** is a Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, School of Nursing. She earned her BSN, MSN, and PhD from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is a family nurse practitioner where she has provided health care for vulnerable populations in primary care, school-based health, and corrections. She teaches qualitative methods in the PhD program and leads a study abroad program to Kenya focused on community health. Dr. Kako’s tenure of academic and administrative leadership at the School of Nursing includes being past director of the DNP program where she led faculty in curriculum redesign and creation of new courses and the Executive Committee (Department) Chair for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Kako’s program of research is focused on improving health care access for underserved populations locally and internationally to; eliminate HIV among women in sub-Saharan Africa, improve chronic disease self-management, and reduce women’s experiences of gender-based violence. She is the program director and principal investigator for Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funded sexual assault nurse examiner training program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.





**Elizabeth Kuzma, DNP, FNP-BC**

University of Michigan  
Clinical Associate Professor/Director of APRN Programs

**Elizabeth Kuzma**, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, is a Clinical Associate Professor at University of Michigan’s School of Nursing (UMSN) in the Health Behavior and Biological Sciences department. She is the Director of APRN Programs and teaches in the primary care family nurse practitioner (FNP) and adult-gerontology nurse practitioner (AGPCNP) programs. Dr. Kuzma also practices as a family nurse practitioner (FNP). She is committed to working with vulnerable and underserved populations, particularly at-risk, high ACE youth. Her research and scholarship focus includes a variety of adolescent health issues, particularly related to trauma, sexuality and gender identity, as well as integrating these content areas into NP education. She is actively involved and committed to professional and policy advocacy. Dr. Kuzma sees public policy advocacy at all levels (organizational, local, state, and federal) as the broadest form of patient advocacy for health promotion and disease prevention. She is a former American Association for Nurse Practitioners (AANP) State Representative for Michigan, has served on the AANP Research Committee, and is currently serving on the AANP National Nominations Council.



**Tammy Legge, DNP, RN, CNE**

Belmont University  
Chair, Undergraduate Nursing & Associate Professor

**Dr. Legge** is a tenured Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Nursing at Belmont University, located in Nashville, TN. She has 39 years of experience as a Registered Nurse with 25 years spent in nursing academia. As a National League of Nursing (NLN) Certified Nurse Educator (CNE), Dr. Legge currently teaches at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Dr. Legge is recognized for her passion and expertise in innovative teaching strategies, best evidence in nursing education, and curriculum development. She has been actively involved in the development of innovative curricular strategies that reflect the latest advancements in healthcare and align with the evolving needs of the healthcare profession. Dr. Legge firmly believes in the power of active learning, simulation-based training, and interdisciplinary collaboration to enhance the educational experience and better prepare nursing students for real-world challenges. Her scholarship interests encompass innovative pedagogical strategies aimed at fostering meaningful and active learning experiences.





**Jenna LoGiudice, PhD, CNM, RN, FACNM, FAAN**

Fairfield University  
 Professor, Nurse Midwifery DNP Program Director

**Dr. LoGiudice** is a Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) with 16 years of direct patient care experience. Her leadership within the midwifery and nursing communities as a clinician, scholar, educator, researcher, and advocate to advance equitable solutions to the nation’s most complex healthcare challenges has been recognized through her inductions as a Fellow of the American College of Nurse Midwives (FACNM) in 2019, and as a Fellow within the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN) in 2023. Her specific contributions as an academic, nurse midwife change agent hinge on dissemination of trauma-informed care best practices, education of Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) nurses, development of an innovative trauma-informed care midwifery DNP curriculum, and leadership in achieving scalable Medicaid pay parity legislation for nurse midwives in Connecticut. She has numerous research publications in leading midwifery and nursing journals, and is the co-author of a book titled “Re-imagining Motherhood and Career: Insights from a time of crisis.” At Fairfield, she is the program director of the Nurse Midwifery DNP program, and she developed and teaches an honors course titled “Mothering in the Americas” for which she received social justice designation. She is the program director of a \$1.22 million MatCare (Maternity Care Nursing Workforce Expansion) HRSA grant to increase the diversity and number of nurse midwives prepared to deliver evidence-based, culturally-competent practices to vulnerable populations in order to address maternal health disparities in the United States.



**Carrie MacLeod, Ph.D., APRN-BC**

Saint Anselm College  
 Director of Undergraduate Nursing

**Dr. MacLeod** is the Director of Undergraduate Nursing and an Associate professor with tenure at the Jean School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH. Before joining academia, Dr. MacLeod worked for many years as a Cardiothoracic ICU nurse and nurse practitioner at teaching hospitals in Boston. She obtained her Ph.D. from the William F. Connell School of Nursing, Boston College. Her research areas of interest and publications focus on recovery and caregiving after cardiac surgery, clinical peer mentoring, and interprofessional collaboration. In addition to her role as director, Dr. MacLeod teaches critical care nursing in the undergraduate program, emphasizing simulation and clinical experiences as crucial components of her course. She is currently involved in developing graduate programs at the Jean School of Nursing and Health Sciences.





**Mary McNamara, DNP, APRN, CNP, FAANP**

Loyola University Chicago  
 Associate Dean Innovative Partnerships and Faculty Practice,  
 Assistant Dean Graduate Clinical Programs

**Dr. McNamara** is the Associate Dean for Innovative Partnerships and Faculty Practice and leads all graduate clinical programs at Loyola University Chicago’s Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing. She is an educator who leads equity-driven large-scale programs to prepare the Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of tomorrow to meet the complex physical, social, and emotional needs of the patients they serve. In her administrative roles at the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, Dr. McNamara creates and supports innovative nurse-led models of care and partnerships that advance practice. Through the partnerships she creates, Dr. McNamara facilitates community engagement that supports student learning, faculty practice, and clinical scholarship. She scaffolds, innovates, and evaluates graduate clinical programs that ensure a well prepared, diverse, and systems-focused advanced practice nursing workforce. Dr. McNamara is a transformational leader who has fundamentally changed the context of clinical practice for nurse practitioners within a large regional health system. As a leader in practice, Dr. McNamara coordinated efforts from her health system and academic institution to advocate for the passage of Full Practice Authority in our legislature and its subsequent operationalization. She practices clinically as an emergency nurse practitioner.



**Sara McPherson, PhD, RN, CNE**

University of Illinois Chicago  
 Director, UIC Nursing-Springfield Campus, Interim Director  
 Peoria Campus Clinical Associate Professor

**Dr. Sara McPherson** is a Clinical Associate Professor and the Director of the Springfield and Peoria Campuses at the University of Illinois Chicago College of Nursing. With 15 years of experience as a nurse educator, she teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses and serves as a DNP faculty mentor.

Dr. McPherson’s research and scholarship focus on nursing education, particularly on faculty preparation, recruitment, and retention strategies. She is recognized for her expertise in the Delphi method and has published extensively on the preparation and needs of nursing faculty. Additionally, Dr. McPherson works as a Research and Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) facilitator at Memorial Health Systems, assisting nurses with conducting and implementing research and EBP projects.

Her accolades include being named a Forty Under Forty Emerging Leader by the Illinois Nurse Foundation in 2020, a Nurse Educator Fellow by the Illinois Board of Higher Education in 2021, and receiving the ITEAM Award for Interprofessional Development Education Experience with a team of colleagues in 2022.





**Sarah McVeigh, DNP, GCNS-BC, RN**

University of Iowa  
 Interim Associate Dean of Undergraduate and RN Programs;  
 Director MSN EIP program

**Dr. Sarah McVeigh** is an Associate Professor of Instruction and the Interim Associate Dean for Undergraduate and RN programs at the University of Iowa, where she also serves as the Director of the Masters Entry into Practice Program. Prior to coming to Iowa, Dr. McVeigh was a faculty member at Penn State University and served as the Campus Coordinator for the BSN program at the main campus. She completed her BSN, MSN, and DNP at Penn State University. Her clinical expertise is in adult/gero acute care and rehabilitation and is board certified as a Geriatric Clinical Nurse Specialist. Since moving to full-time teaching in 2011, Dr. McVeigh has taught in a variety of undergraduate nursing courses including clinical, simulation, and didactic instruction in the areas of fundamentals, geriatrics, med-surg, pharmacology, and professional development. She has taught in online RN-BSN programs in the areas of nursing informatics, family and community health concepts, pathology, and health concepts for adults with complex health needs. Dr. McVeigh is passionate about student success and creating programs to support students in their nursing courses.



**Melissa Melcher, DNP, MN, RN, FNP-BC**

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
 Clinical Assistant Professor, Master of Nursing Program  
 Director

**Dr. Melcher** is a Clinical Assistant Professor and new Director for the Master of Nursing Program at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. She has a diverse background with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and clinical experience as an EMT before pursuing her nursing education. She earned her Master of Nursing as a Clinical Nurse Leader and Doctor of Nursing Practice as a Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. She recently completed a Post-Master's Certificate for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. She has been a nurse educator for over 7 years. She has a passion for improving inclusive healthcare with a focus on mental health and gender affirming care. She was part of a team who developed and implemented a population-based simulation to improve student understanding of inclusive care for transgender and gender diverse individuals. She has been a leader in integrating technological tools and accessible online course design to improve student learning. She brings innovative ideas and passion for constant improvement into all her endeavors with an overall goal of student success.





**Heather Mitchell, PhD, MSN, RN**

University of Louisville  
 Interim Associate Dean- Undergraduate and  
 Prelicensure Programs

**Dr. Heather Mitchell** serves as Interim Associate Dean of Undergraduate and Prelicensure Programs and Associate Professor at the University of Louisville School of Nursing. She earned her PhD in Educational Leadership and Organizational Development from the University of Louisville and MSN in Nursing Education from University of Southern Indiana. She previously served as Program Director and Assistant Dean of BSN programs. Dr. Mitchell is the lead academic administrator for six undergraduate programs and oversees all clinical and academic partnerships. She is responsible for recruiting, hiring, and onboarding full- and part-time faculty. Dr. Mitchell supervises 23 full-time, 35 part-time faculty, and 5 support staff. Over the past 17 years, she has taught a variety of pre-licensure nursing courses in traditional and accelerated BSN programs. Dr. Mitchell's area of scholarship focuses on RN workforce development. She is the Program Director of a \$3.99 million HRSA grant focused on creating an LPN-BSN pathway program across Kentucky, with an emphasis on increasing health equity and workforce diversity. She also manages grants from the Kentucky Council for Postsecondary Education Healthcare Workforce Collaborative and the Kentucky Area Health Education Centers, both of which support the recruitment and retention of minority and underserved students.



**Michelle Nelson, PhD, RN**

University of North Alabama  
 Associate Dean, Professor, Anderson College of Nursing  
 and Health Professions

**Dr. Nelson** is the Associate Dean at the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions (ACONHP) at the University of North Alabama (UNA). She is a tenured full professor of nursing. Dr. Nelson has 29 years of experience as a registered nurse and 22 years of higher education.

Dr. Nelson completed her undergraduate degree in nursing from UNA in 1997 and her Master of Science degree at the University of Alabama in 2001. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2014. She has significant experience with accreditation and curriculum development and has taught in both undergraduate and graduate programs.

Dr. Nelson's research area of interest is nursing student success in the online learning environment. From 2019 to 2022, she was the ACONHP Nursing Track Education Success Coordinator of a \$1.098 million Department of Labor Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) grant.





**Nassrine Nouredine, Ed.D., MSN, BSN, RN**

University of the Pacific  
Associate Program Director

**Dr. Nassrine Nouredine** brings over 30 years of teaching experience in the US and abroad. She is currently the co-founder, professor, and Associate Director of the Entry-Level Master of Science in Nursing (ELMSN) program at the University of the Pacific. She co-founded the California Interprofessional Education Research Academy (CA-IPERA) and the Interprofessional Education Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at California State University, Sacramento, the first in the 23-campus CSU system. Additionally, Dr. Nouredine is the founder and director of SAHA Health Center, a free community clinic that serves the uninsured and provides interprofessional community experiences for students. Her scholarship focuses on curriculum development, simulation, interprofessional education (IPE), cultural competence, educational equity, health equity, and refugee health.

Dr. Nouredine has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Western Academy of Nursing Award for Excellence in Education, the CSUS Outstanding Teaching Award, the Outstanding Community Service Award, the Woman of Influence Award, and multiple accolades from the CSUS DEGREES Project for her work in closing the achievement gap and supporting educational equity.



**Jessica Rainbow, PhD, RN, CNE**

University of Arizona  
Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Research Partnerships

**Jessica Rainbow**, PhD, RN, CNE, is an Associate Professor with tenure and the Director of Clinical Research Partnerships at the University of Arizona College of Nursing. Dr. Rainbow’s research program focuses on improving hospital and nursing school environments to advance nursing workforce well-being, health, and safety, and, ultimately, patient care. In her studies, she leads interdisciplinary teams to address longstanding problems in nursing through innovative solutions using qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches. Dr. Rainbow is proud to have represented nursing as a part of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health’s interdisciplinary team for their Health Worker Mental Health Initiative funded by the American Rescue Plan of 2021. The work she conducted as a part of this team was shared in briefings to US Senators, the Surgeon General and the White House. Dr. Rainbow has received \$401,092 in funding as a PI (with an additional \$2,370,305 as Co-I), and disseminated findings through 38 peer-reviewed publications, presentations at national and international conferences, and media interviews. Dr. Rainbow is Udall Center Faculty Fellow, Tucson Fab 50 Nurse, and Jonas Scholar. She is a dedicated mentor and educator and is committed to developing the next generation of nurses and nurse scientists, and was recognized for these efforts with the 2024 University of Arizona Mentoring Future Scholars Award.





**Virginia Reising, DNP, RN, CSN-PEL, PHNA-BC**

Rush University  
Associate Professor and Associate Chair Person

**Virginia Reising**, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, PEL-CSN, is an Associate Professor and Associate Chairperson at Rush University in the Department of Community, Systems, and Mental Health Nursing where she teaches at the Masters and Doctoral level. She previously worked in the College of Nursing at University of Illinois Chicago where she served as Interim Associate Dean for Practice and Partnerships, Associate Department Head, and the primary investigator on a HRSA Behavioral Health Integration Collaborative Agreement which supported the implementation of an integrated model of behavioral health care at a nurse-led health federally qualified health center and community correctional setting.

Dr. Reising completed her Master of Nursing degree at Rush University with a concentration in advanced population health nursing and her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at the University of Illinois Chicago. Her clinical experience spans hospital, primary care, and school settings. In 2018, she was named an Illinois Nurses Foundation 40 under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader and in 2022, she was named a Pinnacle Nurse Leader.



**Gina Rowe, PhD, DNP, MPH, FNP-BC, BC-ADM, PHCNS-BC, FNAP**

University of New Mexico  
Assistant Dean of Professional Graduate Programs  
Associate Professor

**Dr. Rowe** leads a department of 24 graduate faculty working collaboratively to deliver advanced nursing practice education and prepare nurse leaders skilled in both clinical practice and healthcare transformation. She has 20 years of nursing education experience in DNP, PhD, MSN, and BSN programs at five universities in multicultural states. She has practiced as a family nurse practitioner for 17 years in multiple community settings, including school-based wellness, federally qualified health centers, hospital-affiliated clinics, home health, retail care, and two mobile clinics, caring for under-resourced populations. Dr. Rowe’s research stems from her practice and focuses on team-based care to improve outcomes for patients with chronic conditions, prevent hospital and emergency visits, and address health inequities. She has received funding to co-design effective interprofessional clinical and field experiences with other health professions faculty (pharmacy, dietetics, social work, and dentistry), including team-based care for complex patients with diabetes and other co-morbidities and after-school programs to prevent pediatric obesity. She has precepted hundreds of interprofessional students in team-based care. Her work with interprofessional colleagues has gained national recognition for demonstrating that patients receiving team-based care can experience significant improvements in health outcomes. Dr. Rowe is a Fellow of the National Academies of Practice.





**Todd Ruppar, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN**

Rush University

John L. and Helen Kellogg Professor of Nursing; Assistant Dean for Nursing Science & Director, PhD Program

**Dr. Todd Ruppar** is a Professor, the Assistant Dean for Nursing Science, and PhD Program Director in the College of Nursing at Rush University in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Ruppar is well-known as a health behavior researcher, with a particular focus on research to support adults who struggle to adhere to medication regimens. Dr. Ruppar’s research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, the John A. Hartford Foundation, the PhRMA Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, among others. Dr. Ruppar has previously served as president of ESPACOMP, the International Society for Medication Adherence, and is also sought after as a consultant on meta-analysis methodologies. Additionally, Dr. Ruppar serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Western Journal of Nursing Research.





**Erica Schorr, PhD, RN**

University of Minnesota  
Chair of Adult & Gerontological Health Cooperative;  
Associate Professor

**Dr. Erica Schorr**, PhD, RN is Chair of the Adult and Gerontological Health Cooperative and Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Schorr has expertise in designing and testing exercise-based interventions that utilize mobile health technologies and behavioral strategies. Her work focuses on supporting individuals to adopt and sustain healthy behaviors, manage disease-related symptoms, and reduce cardiovascular disease risk with a goal of improving physical function and health-related quality of life, and promoting health equity. Dr. Schorr is a Fellow of the American Heart Association (AHA), co-author of a 2023 AHA Science Advisory on digital technologies in cardiac rehabilitation, chair and first-author of a 2021 AHA Scientific Statement on using mobile health technologies for secondary cardiovascular disease prevention in older adults, and co-author of a 2021 AHA Scientific Statement on physical activity as a critical component of first-line treatment for elevated blood pressure or cholesterol. Based on her interest and experiences in leveraging digital health technologies to improve health outcomes, Dr. Schorr was invited to serve on the Mayo Clinic Proceedings: Digital Health Editorial Board and the American Heart Association (AHA) Digital Science Working Group and was named a School of Nursing Foundation Research Professor in 2022.



**Angela Silvestri-Elmore, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, CNE**

University of Nevada Las Vegas  
Associate Dean for Entry and Prelicensure Education

**Angela Silvestri-Elmore** is the Associate Dean for Entry and Prelicensure Education at UNLV. She has a Bachelor's in Nursing and Sociology from Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island, and both a Master's and PhD in nursing education from UNLV. Additionally, she holds a post-master's graduate certificate in advanced practice and is a board-certified family nurse practitioner.



**Kristen Slabaugh, DNP, CRNP, FNP-C, CNE**

Messiah University  
 Professor, Coordinator of DNP Program

**Dr. Kristen Slabaugh** is a Professor of Nursing and Assistant Dean of Nursing at Messiah University, where she has worked for fourteen years, the last seven as Coordinator of the DNP Program and newly appointed as Assistant Dean of Nursing. She earned a BSN from Messiah University, an MS Family Nurse Practitioner at Penn State University, and a DNP/FNP and Certificate in Nursing Education at the University of South Alabama. Dr. Slabaugh is a board-certified Family Nursing Practitioner (FNP-C) and Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) specializing in accreditation, new program development, quality improvement, and curricular revision. In 2020, she won the President’s Award for excellence in curricular design/course creation and accreditation preparation. She was the founding chair of the university-wide interprofessional education committee, where she served for four years, implementing year-round events, simulations, and symposia for undergraduate and graduate health profession students. Dr. Slabaugh teaches UG capstone, DNP project courses, Interprofessional Education, and population health as a study abroad in Zambia, Africa. Her research and quality improvement interests include depression, anxiety, and emotional intelligence in young adult and college-aged populations, interprofessional simulation, and the application of spiritual care in nursing practice. Her biggest passions are supporting students through school while navigating life circumstances and spending time with her husband and three children, especially at the beach.



**Jennifer Stone, DNP, MBA, APRN, FNP-BC**

Walden University  
 FNP Academic Program Coordinator

**Dr. Jennifer Stone** is Associate Dean for the nurse practitioner program at Walden University and is a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner. She taught in DNP and FNP programs for nearly 14 years and has been an academic leader for the past 9 years. Dr. Stone received her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with a Family Nurse Practitioner specialization degree from Barry University. She then went on to receive her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Walden University.

Dr. Stone currently practices in primary care and obesity management. She holds a certificate in advanced education in obesity management from the Obesity Medicine Association (OMA) and a certificate in obesity management in primary care from The Obesity Society (TOS).

Dr. Stone’s research interests focus on nurse practitioner education and the impact on patient outcomes. Her research and practice are guided by the core principles of patient-centered care, focusing on both the physical and emotional well-being of individuals. Dr. Stone has presented at numerous professional conferences and has been published in peer-reviewed journals.





**Tricia Templet, DNP, RN, CPNP-PC, FNP-C**

University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Associate Professor/BSN Program Coordinator

**Tricia Templet**, DNP, RN, CPNP-PC, FNP-C is a dedicated nursing professional with almost 10 years in academia and extensive clinical and educational experience. Tricia holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree with Honors from Northwestern State University and earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of San Diego, specializing in both Pediatric and Family Nurse Practitioner.

Currently serving as an Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette since 2021, Tricia’s role involves curriculum development and coordination of the pre-licensure BSN program. Courses previously taught include Maternal Child Nursing, Applied Statistics for Health Sciences and Clinical Scholarship, and in the University’s Study Abroad program, demonstrating her commitment to advancing nursing education.

Tricia has been recognized regionally for her teaching excellence and research endeavors, receiving several awards, including the UL Lafayette Research Excellence Award, the Hamilton Medical Group Endowed Professorship in Nursing II, and recognized as one of the top 25 nursing honorees at the 2019 Acadiana Celebrates Nursing gala by the Louisiana State Nurses Association District IV Chapter. She remains actively engaged in professional associations and community service, underscoring her commitment to advancing nursing practice and education.



**Cheryl Thaxton, DNP, APRN, CPNP, FNP-BC, CHPPN, ACUE, FPCN, FAANP**

University of North Texas Health Science Center  
Associate Dean, Professor, & Chair Graduate Studies

**Cheryl Thaxton**, DNP, MA, APRN, CPNP, FNP-BC, CHPPN, ACUE, FPCN, FAANP is board certified as a pediatric nurse practitioner and family nurse practitioner. Dr. Thaxton currently serves as the Founding Associate Dean, Professor, and Chair of Graduate Studies for College of Nursing (CON) at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) at Fort Worth. Dr. Thaxton has over 33 years of experience in nursing care of patients across the lifespan which includes several years of experience in critical care, palliative and hospice care, primary care, nursing leadership, curriculum development, and program development/evaluation. . Dr. Thaxton is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA); for six years she served on the national exam development committee for the Certified Hospice and Palliative Pediatric Nurse (CHPPN) certification exam. In 2021, Dr. Thaxton received the DFW Great 100 Nurses award. In 2022, she was the recipient of the 2022 Estelle Osborne Legacy Award from the New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing. Dr. Thaxton will be inducted as an American Academy of Nursing Fellow in Fall of 2024 and was recently approved by the Texas Board of Regents as a tenured professor, effective September 2024.

She enjoys spending time with her wonderful family and church community on her spare time as well as playing golf and participating in community service activities.





**Laurie Theeke, PHD, FNP-BC, GCNS-BC, FNAP, FAAN**

George Washington University  
 Professor and Associate Dean for PhD in Nursing

**Dr. Laurie Theeke** is an administrator, educator, scientist, and clinician. She has worked in PhD Education for 15 years, providing administrative oversight for PhD education at both state and private institutions. She has studied curriculum designs that best serve students to facilitate the development of nurse scientist so that programs can meet the diverse needs of potential students. Her research is internationally recognized for her expertise on the impact of loneliness and isolation on health in different populations. She is a sought-after mentor for PhD students and coach for junior faculty, engaging with them from the perspective of their interests to awaken new leaders to what is possible. She is currently teamed with others to discover the impact of loneliness and isolation for black women with hypertension, and those living in long-term care, with chronic wounds, and with opioid addiction. Dr. Theeke invented LISTEN, an intervention designed to target loneliness which has demonstrated effectiveness and was recently recognized as a potential solution to loneliness. Finally, Dr. Theeke is recognized as an expert clinician with 30 years of experience as a family nurse practitioner and clinical specialist in gerontological nursing.



**Kelly Zinn, PhD, RN, CNE**

Sam Houston State University  
 Clinical Professor, Nursing Success & Wellness  
 Program Coordinator

**Dr. Kelly K. Zinn, PhD, RN, CNE**, is a Clinical Professor and the Nursing Success & Wellness Program Coordinator in the School of Nursing at Sam Houston State University (SHSU) in The Woodlands, TX. With a nursing career spanning nearly three decades, Dr. Zinn has been a dedicated nurse since 1995 and a passionate nurse educator since 2001.

Dr. Zinn earned her Ph.D. in Nursing from Loyola University Chicago in 2012 and achieved Certified Nurse Educator status in 2020. As the longest-tenured faculty member at SHSU's School of Nursing, which she joined in September 2012, Dr. Zinn has been instrumental in advancing numerous initiatives that have significantly enhanced the program.

In her current role as Nursing Success & Wellness Coordinator, which she assumed in January 2022, Dr. Zinn develops partnerships and programs aimed at increasing nursing student resiliency and success. Her work directly contributes to graduates' success as Registered Nurses, particularly during their crucial first year of practice.

Dr. Zinn's research focus has evolved to encompass understanding and promoting nursing student success, as well as exploring tools for self-care and resiliency promotion. She continues to teach Nursing Concepts to first-semester students, bringing her wealth of experience and innovative approaches to the classroom.





**Tiffany Zyniewicz, PhD, MSN, RN, CHSE**

Pacific Lutheran University  
ABSN Coordinator, Associate Professor

**Tiffany Zyniewicz** has served as a nurse educator and simulationist for over 20 years and has held program leadership positions in simulation programs and in nursing and allied health education for the past 10 years. Dr. Zyniewicz currently holds the position of Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program Coordinator for the Pacific Lutheran University, Lynnwood Campus in Washington state. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Washington, Tacoma, Master of Science in Nursing from Seattle Pacific University, and PhD in Nursing Leadership from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is the president elect of the Council on Nursing Education in Washington State and has served in various leadership positions on the Pacific Northwest Healthcare Simulation Collaborative. She is a founding member of the Washington State Simulation Plan Task Force and is passionate about using simulation in healthcare education to expand access to clinical learning. She aspires to obtain a position as a dean of a college of nursing and health sciences and lead efforts to increase access to nursing education and also increase diversity in the nursing profession at all levels of nursing.



This notebook was compiled by  
Carolyn Humphrey, PhD at Voyagers Consulting for participant  
use in the Elevating Leaders in Academic Nursing program.

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