

# 2024 Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Awards

*Private Colleges and Universities Category*



Samuel Merritt University's (SMU's) Human Trafficking Prevention & Response Education Program (HT P.R.E.P.) was developed to address a gap in the care of survivors and those at risk of human trafficking (HT) in healthcare settings. HT P.R.E.P. serves as a catalyst for change in curriculum, responding to findings from a recent national survey. This survey revealed that most healthcare providers (HCPs) and HCP students had not received any training on HT. Those who had undergone training rated their understanding as below average, and 93% reported a need for additional HT training (McAmis et al., 2022).

HT P.R.E.P. advances AACN's mission by educating current and future HCPs who may encounter survivors and those at risk of HT. The program provides training on HT as a systemic issue, emphasizing trauma-informed care and offering community resources. Since October 2022, HT P.R.E.P. has been supported by clinicians, educators, and community partners, and has received additional backing through a grant from the Department of Justice and an endowed gift in 2023. This support contributes to the program's sustainability and potential for replication. By addressing a critical gap in trauma-informed HCP training with a systemic approach and multimodal pedagogy, HT P.R.E.P. advances professional nursing education.

Exeni McAmis NE, Mirabella AC, McCarthy EM, Cama CA, Fogarasi MC, Thomas LA, Feinn RS, Rivera-Godreau I. Assessing healthcare provider knowledge of human trafficking. *PLoS One*. 2022 Mar 9;17(3):e0264338. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0264338. PMID: 35263364; PMCID: PMC8906613.

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To learn more about the AACN's Innovations in Professional Nursing Education awards, visit the [AACN website](https://www.aacnursing.org).

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