

**SCHOOL OF**

# **NURSING**

**Dean's Report 2023**

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
EDWARDSVILLE**





## Message from the Dean

With great pride, I reflect on our past year and my first year as dean of the SIUE School of Nursing. I am filled with gratitude and deep respect for the dedication to the nursing profession, innovative education, pioneering scholarship and service to the regional and global communities shown by our faculty, staff, students and alumni.

The School of Nursing continues to graduate over 450 undergraduate and more than 100 graduate students yearly. We are working to significantly impact the regional and national nursing workforce shortage. Our NCLEX and national certification pass rates remain strong thanks to our excellent faculty; student success and achievement programs; simulation experiences; and diverse clinical opportunities.

We have many points of pride, including our grants addressing the social determinants of health and preparing preceptors to work with our students. The School of Nursing's WeCare Clinic is thriving with four faculty nurse practitioners providing care and a mobile health unit on its way this spring. Our faculty-led international trips provide clinical opportunities and a new lens for undergraduate and graduate students to understand the world.

As I look to 2024, I am excited to watch the construction of the new Health Sciences Building, which will house our nursing and pharmacy students starting in the fall of 2025. The new building will advance our commitment to excellence in nursing education and scholarship and provide the opportunity for interprofessional collaboration for students and faculty. Our ambitious capital campaign is underway to outfit the building with state-of-the-art equipment and classroom furnishings.

I am also excited to put our new mission and vision statements focusing on health equity into practice and develop strategic planning to increase access and opportunity for our students, continue excellence in teaching, and bring diversity to faculty and staff.

There is much to celebrate! Thank you for your unwavering support; I look forward to sharing the School of Nursing's many successes in the coming year.

With warmest wishes,

Judy Liesveld, PhD, RN, PPCNP-BC  
Dean

## Points of Pride

**100%**

nurse anesthesia DNP board pass rate

**40**

projected class size  
for nurse anesthesia program 2024

**OVER  
260**

simulation experiences  
are provided each year by our  
simulation team undergraduate  
and graduate students

**26**

students from undergraduate and  
graduate nursing programs **participated**  
**in global education experiences**  
in five different countries

**10,902**

alumni  
spanning the region,  
state and nation

**81%**

live and work in  
Illinois and Missouri

**99%**

CRNA five-year post-graduate  
employment rate

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## Three HRSA Grants Support AEDI Efforts

The School of Nursing has been awarded three grants by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). All grants support the School's and University's commitment to anti-racism, equity, diversity and inclusion by working to address health equity, increase patient access to care, and increase the capacity of the nursing workforce to address the social determinants of health and diversify the nursing workforce.

## Impacting Community Health Through WE CARE Clinic and Mobile Health Unit

A \$4 million from HRSA, the largest grant in the School's history, funded the development of a mobile health unit that will provide community-based services in East St. Louis, Fairmont City and surrounding communities. The four-year project is entitled, "Nurse education, practice, quality, and retention-mobile health training program - WE CARE REACH: Responding, educating and advocating for community health."

Serving as an extension of the SIUE WE CARE Clinic on the Wyvetter H. Younge Higher Education Campus in East St. Louis, the mobile health unit, WE CARE REACH, offers primary care and chronic care management services. The WE CARE Clinic and Mobile Unit is staffed by an interprofessional team of healthcare providers, including nurse practitioners, undergraduate

and graduate nursing students, a social worker, a nutritionist, and a pharmacist.

The grant also provides undergraduate nursing students with \$1,000 stipends to help increase their interest and ability to join the nursing workforce within underserved primary care settings. Cohorts of undergraduate students — the inaugural cohort enrolled in fall 2022 — will complete 100 clinical hours in an immersive, primary-care and community-based setting. The student cohorts work with an interprofessional team in collaboration with community partners, including local health departments, school districts, community centers and outreach programs to provide care with the new WE CARE REACH mobile health unit.

**"We are focused on promoting health equity by increasing access to care, growing the number of students who are prepared to address the social determinants of health within the community setting and training more underrepresented students in community health."**

Jerrica Ampadu, PhD, RN, CCP  
Associate Professor and Director of the WE CARE Clinic



## Educating Nurse Preceptors

A \$3.8 million HRSA grant was awarded through the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, Retention - Clinical Faculty and Preceptor Academies program to support a Community-Based Nursing Fellowship curriculum. Over four years, the project will focus on increasing the nursing workforce by producing skilled, qualified clinical nursing faculty and preceptors to address health equity, increase access to care, and the capacity of the nursing workforce, as well as prepare nurses to serve as clinical nursing faculty and preceptors to newly hired or transitioning licensed nurses in a variety of care settings in rural and/or underserved areas.

**"We have always been a leader in the region in educating and preparing nurses and advanced practice registered nurses to be the best at providing care to patients, including patients who are traditionally underserved."**

Bernadette Sobczak, DNP, APN, CPNP-PC, PMHS  
Assistant Professor and Family Nurse Practitioner Clinical Site Coordinator

**"I am proud of the grant teams and their ambitious goals to infuse the social determinants of health into curriculum, clinical experiences and to prepare well-qualified educators and preceptors. These grants will have long reaching benefits for our students, faculty and communities."**

Judy Liesveld, PhD, PPCNP-BC, CNE, FAAN  
School of Nursing Dean

## Diversifying Nursing Recruitment and Impacting Underserved Areas

A diverse nursing workforce is paramount to providing high-quality, culturally competent patient care and closing the health equity gaps that exist in communities across the U.S. A \$1.05 million HRSA grant is supporting the School's concentrated effort to recruit students and faculty with emphasis on diversifying the nursing workforce and retention of pre-nursing and nursing students.

**"Our team is enthusiastic about the opportunities this grant allows for our students and our profession."**

Angela Andrews, PhD, RN-BC, CNE  
Assistant Professor and Program Director

The three-year project, entitled, "Increasing Nursing Workforce Diversity and Readiness to Practice utilizing an Innovative 4R (Recruit, Retain, Readiness and Revisions) Approach," also includes revision of the nursing curriculum to ensure nursing students are prepared to practice in underserved areas. Nursing faculty will collaborate with the SIUE Department of Social Work as part of the revisions of the curriculum to provide nursing students with interprofessional simulations related to social determinants of health.

## Meeting the Region's Need for Nursing Excellence

SIUE broke ground on the highly anticipated Health Sciences Building, a \$109 million, 176,000-square-foot building made possible by Governor J.B. Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan. The three-story facility will provide state-of-the-art learning and research spaces for the School of Nursing and the School of Pharmacy through new construction and renovations to existing buildings on SIUE's campus. The project is expected to be completed by the fall of 2025.

State funding will support the renovation and connection of two existing buildings on University Park Drive. The scope of work also includes constructing a 110,000-square-foot LEED Silver-certified building to house a nursing simulation laboratory, classrooms, research laboratories, study areas and administrative offices.

"I am excited about the future of the School of Nursing, particularly, with the new building," said Dean Judy Liesveld, PhD, RN, PPCVP-BS. "Students, faculty and staff will have a beautiful space to learn, work, grow and thrive. Sharing the building with the School of Pharmacy will enhance interprofessional education opportunities for students and collaborative projects for faculty and staff. We look forward to graduating our outstanding nurses from the new facility."



### Partner with us!

Help fund the state-of-the-art furnishing, equipment and systems needed to complete the Health Sciences Building.

### Make your gift today!

[connect.siu.edu/g/donate](https://connect.siu.edu/g/donate)

SIUE Health Sciences Building Fund #4243

## Mass Casualty Exercise Provides Unique Learning Opportunity

The School of Nursing enhances the student learning experience by offering opportunities for hands-on learning and practice in a variety of environments and scenarios. Nursing students had the unique opportunity to participate in a mass casualty exercise in coordination with air ambulance service Air Evac Lifeteam 156 and Edwardsville Fire and Ambulance Service.



**"The mass casualty event was one of the best experiences I've encountered in nursing school."**

Jayla Newton, Senior Nursing Student

The simulation recreated a scenario of multiple people injured from an explosive incident. In collaboration with the emergency response professionals, the nursing students triaged the injured using the SALT (Sort, Assess, Life-saving interventions, Treatment/Transport) and START (Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment) mass casualty triage systems. These triage systems guide healthcare professionals as they visibly identify the clinical category of each patient for the rescuers who will treat them.



**"Educating nurses in community health includes ensuring preparedness for unexpected, devastating events such as mass casualties. A multidisciplinary approach promotes collaboration between emergency responders and future nurses."**

Myjal Garner, DNP, APRN, FNP-C

Instructor, Family Health and Community Health Nursing



# Preceptor Excellence Awards

The School of Nursing has agreements with preceptors in a variety of settings who provide care to a wide range of populations at diverse sites in Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin and Florida. Preceptor Excellence Awards are presented in recognition of the critical role preceptors play in preparing Doctor of Nursing practice students. Outstanding preceptors were nominated by DNP students, and winners were selected by faculty.

## Award Recipients

- Family Practice: Kimberly Koontz, APRN, FNP, Springfield Clinic, Springfield, Ill.
- Women's Health: Jessica Schneider, APRN, WHNP, West End OBGYN, St. Louis
- Mental Health: Sandra Tate, APN-CS, Tate Psychiatric Consulting, Locations in Southern Illinois
- Pediatrics: Eliza Smith, APRN, FNP-BC, Sarah Bush Lincoln Pediatric Clinic, Mattoon, Ill.
- Specialty Area: Jeanne Hancock, APRN, FNP-BC, Christian Northwest Healthcare, Florissant, Mo.



**"These women were true pioneers in the School of Nursing's history. They each had rich amazing careers and have so much professional expertise to offer our students. Their generous scholarship is a lasting gift that will benefit many students."**

Judy Liesveld, PhD, RN,  
PPCNP-BC, CNE, FAAN  
School of Nursing Dean



**DNP students had this to say about the award recipients:**



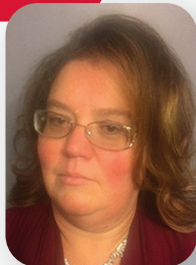
**"Kimberly established an atmosphere that was inviting to questions and allowed for infinite amounts of different patient experiences."**

Kayla Green



**"Jessica took the time to make sure I felt confident when caring for patients."**

Jessica Landrum



**"Sandra was awesome to work with. She cares for many people and loves what she does."**

Camille Roland



**"I look forward to working with Eliza again next semester to learn even more about caring for the pediatric population."**

Kaylee Beals



**"Jeanne is one reason why I decided to return to school to become a nurse practitioner."**

Alissa Struble

## Alumnae-Fundraised Endowment Benefits Future Nursing Students

Graduates of the inaugural Class of 1966 led a successful fundraising campaign to fully endow the Nursing Heritage Scholarship Endowment, a scholarship for traditional nursing students in perpetuity. The campaign was led by graduates Sharon Grider, Barb Wagner, Mary Anne Wehrle and Lynn Ward. Sharing deep pride in the remarkable growth and success of their alma mater, the campaign leaders asked fellow alumni and friends from the classes of 1969-1970 to join them in establishing a scholarship that would secure their legacy and impact on the future of nursing.

**"Interaction between alumni and new students allows for perspectives to be shared from both generations."**

Mary Anne Wehrle, Class of 1966

"Prospective qualified students of all economic levels must have the opportunity to attain college education in their chosen field," said Grider. "Who better to help them than those who have gone before them."



## Jennifer Caires-Kennel and Devon Bennett Attend Alverno Assessment Workshop

Instructors for Primary Care and Health Systems Nursing Jennifer N. Caires-Kennel, MSN, RN, and Devon Bennett, MSN, RN, CNL, SCRNP, attended Alverno College's 47th annual workshop, "Teaching for Competencies Using Performance Assessment," in June. This comprehensive, hands-on workshop prepared education leaders to understand and explore learning outcomes, competency-based education, student-assessment-as learning and institutional assessment. While the School of Nursing already utilizes Alverno's recommended assessment tools, the workshop was timely as competency-based education is now a requirement of the National Council State Board of Nursing criteria.

**"It was an awesome experience to be able to go in-person and work with a group of other nursing educators. The most meaningful session involved creating an assessment tool."**

Devon Bennett, MSN, RN, CNL, SCRNP  
Student Success Coach and Instructor, Primary Care and Health Systems Nursing

Participants heard from a student panel who shared their positive acceptance of constructive criticism and instructor feedback, as well as how to apply new approaches to the classroom and designed institutional strategies. Enrollment for the workshop was graciously funded by the Dr. Mary Mulcahy SIUE School of Nursing Faculty Development Endowment. Mulcahy retired in 2012 after 12 years with the School of Nursing and eight years as the assistant dean for undergraduate programs.

## Clinical Service in Guatemala: Claire Eller in The Land of Hope

Greg Jennings, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, assistant professor of family health and community health (FHCH) nursing, has been traveling to Guatemala for the last six years, offering nursing students a clinical service trip of a lifetime. Jennings and fellow FHCH assistant professor Bernadette Sobczak, DNP, APN, CPNP-PC, PMHS, are board members of ER Abroad, an NPO that provides medical care to a clinic in an impoverished village in Guatemala.

**"Claire is a true star in our program. I am so excited to see the impact she makes on her community as a family nurse practitioner!"**

Greg Jennings, DNP, APRN, FNP-C

The Land of Hope — a safe-haven commune for families — dispenses clean water and food and houses a clinic with SIUE's logo on the building. Claire Eller may have been their sole student last year, but she represented the excellence of the entirety of the School of Nursing. Eller provided remarkable solo care to patients, took up the helm when Jennings fell ill during the last two days of clinic, and even jumped in to address and hand off a medical emergency on the flight home. The trip built her confidence as she transitioned from nurse to provider a few weeks later.



**"The weight of being responsible for my patients' health is no small load. Through this experience I had to learn to listen to my instincts, trust my knowledge and step out of my comfort zone."**

Claire Eller, RN, FNP-C, BSN '15, DNP '23  
Hospitalist, Anderson Hospital

**"Being a new instructor during this time of change, I have learned more about incorporating competency-based learning into the didactic and clinical setting for my students, which makes me grateful for this opportunity provided by Dr. Mulcahy."**

Jennifer N. Caires-Kennel RN, MSN  
Instructor, Primary Care and Health Systems Nursing



School of Nursing  
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Edwardsville, IL 62026

## Degree Programs

The SIUE School of Nursing is leading the way in nursing education in the St. Louis metro region and downstate Illinois. Our progressive and innovative programs prepare nursing graduates for successful careers in the rapidly evolving and complex healthcare environment of the future.

### Bachelor of Science

- Traditional BS in Nursing
- Post-baccalaureate Accelerated BS in Nursing
- Accelerated RN to BS Nursing\*

### Master of Science

- Healthcare and Nursing Administration\*
- Healthcare and Nursing Administration/Healthcare Informatics\*
- Nurse Educator\*

### Doctor of Nursing Practice

- Specializations
    - Family Nurse Practitioner
    - Nurse Anesthesia
    - Post-Master's DNP\*
    - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner\*
    - DNP/MBA
- \*Online degree program

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