

# Improving Undergraduate Nursing Student Attrition

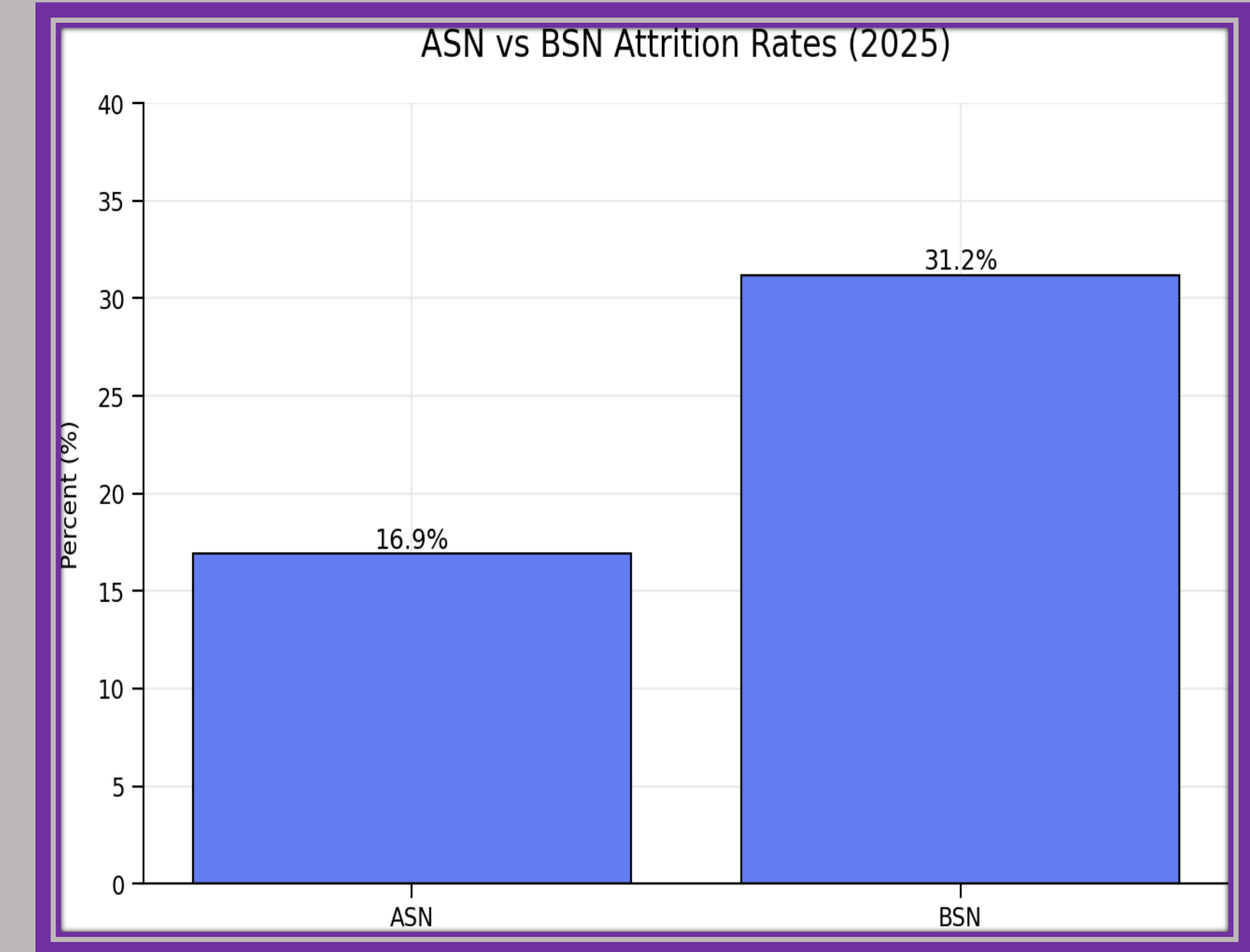
Lisa Wilhite, MSN, FNP-C, Myla Landry, DNP, RN, MEDSURG-BC, NPD-BC



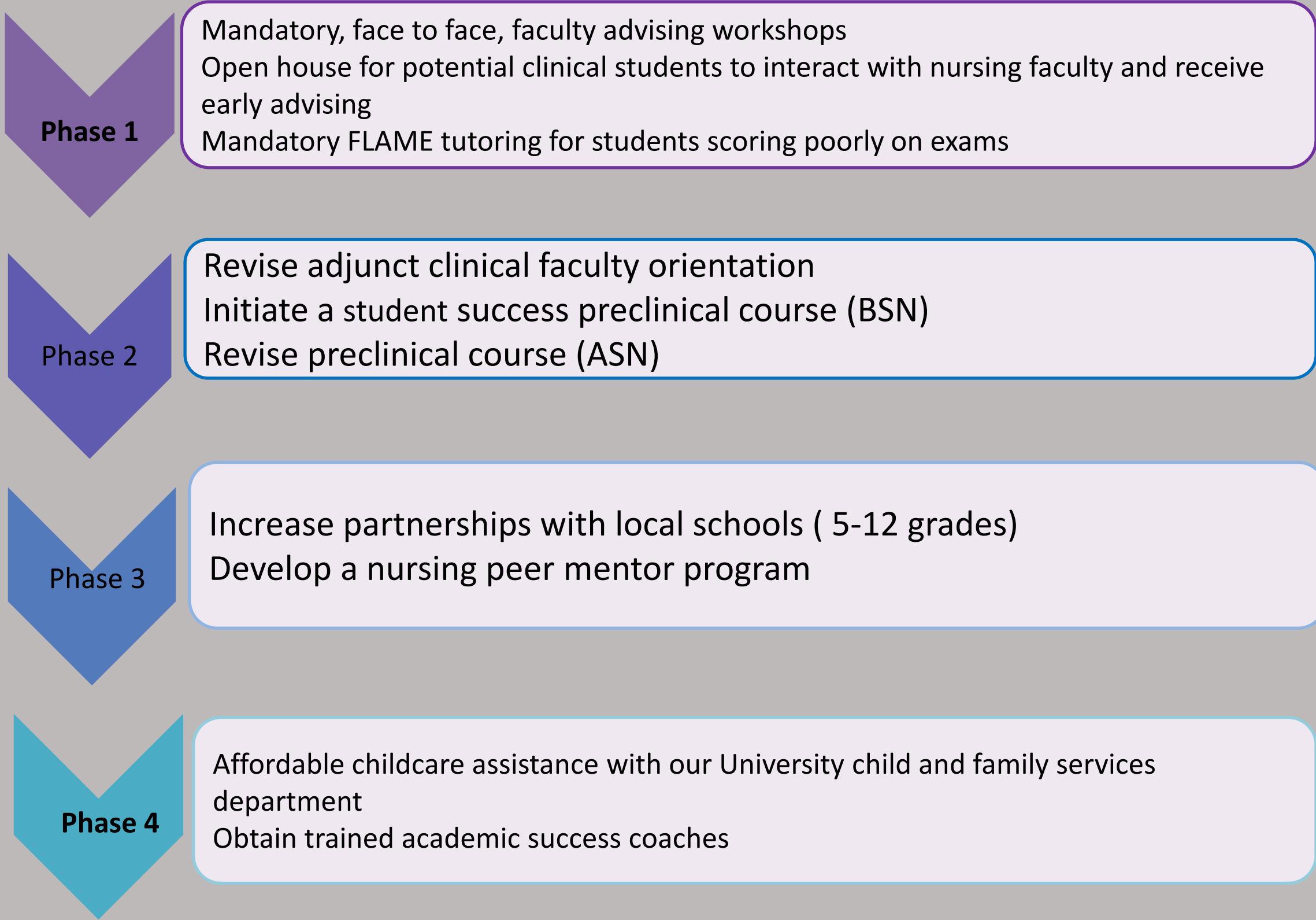
**NORTHWESTERN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

## Background

- College of Nursing Dean tasked undergraduate program directors with lowering attrition rates in undergraduate nursing
- Attrition rates in 2025: 16.9% ASN, 32.1% BSN
- Directors reviewed unsuccessful student's profile data (ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, prior educational experience and First-generation student) to identify common variables.
- Directors reviewed academic factors ( Attendance, advising and Schedule) that may affect student success
- Conducted a literature review to discover methods to reduce attrition
- Literature review indicated need for faculty to look at psychological, environmental, and affective factors in student success
- Used Marianne Jeffreys' NURS model as a framework



## Plan



## Evaluation

- Review attrition rates annually
- Review interventions and determine which work
- Present data results to faculty, administration and Institution
- Survey faculty feedback from advising workshop
- Survey students on FLAME tutoring annually
- Childcare assistance needs assessment survey planned next year

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Factor	ASN	BSN	Key Insight
Age Avg (Student Profile)	25.4	21.7	ASN older, more nontraditional
ACT Avg (Academic)	19.1	20.6	BSN slightly higher readiness
Pell % (Environmental)	74.30%	58.60%	ASN higher financial burden
N/R % (Student Type)	33.70%	66.70%	BSN higher transition complexity



## Improving Undergraduate Nursing Student Attrition

Myla Landry, DNP, RN, MEDSURG-BC, NPD-BC

### Biography

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Myla Landry, DNP, RN, MEDSURG-BC, NPD-BC, is a dedicated nurse educator, leader, and advocate for student success who serves as the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program Director at Northwestern State University College of Nursing. With a career rooted in both clinical excellence and academic leadership, Dr. Landry has devoted her professional life to advancing nursing education and preparing future generations of nurses to meet the evolving demands of healthcare.

Dr. Landry's academic journey reflects her deep commitment to lifelong learning and professional growth. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in 1997, followed by a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with a concentration in Nursing Education in 2015 at Grambling State University. Her nursing clinical background foundation is grounded in medical-surgical nursing. Dr. Landry also spent over a decade teaching in professional development at a Level 1 trauma hospital. She later completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Organizational Systems Leadership in 2019 at Northwestern State University, equipping her with the skills to influence healthcare systems, enhance educational structures, and drive meaningful change within academic and clinical environments.

As BSN Director at Northwestern State University, Dr. Landry plays a pivotal role in shaping the undergraduate nursing experience. She is especially passionate about teaching entry-level BSN students, recognizing the importance of building strong clinical foundations, and fostering professional identity early in a nurse's career. Her teaching philosophy emphasizes student-centered learning, critical thinking, and compassionate care. She strives to create an engaging and supportive learning environment where students feel empowered to grow, ask questions, and develop confidence in their skills.

A hallmark of Dr. Landry's leadership is her commitment to creating pathways for students to reach their full potential. She is deeply invested in student success initiatives, curriculum development, and innovative strategies that support diverse learners. Whether mentoring students or participating in program development, she demonstrates a dedication to academic excellence and continuous improvement.

In addition to her academic achievements, Dr. Landry maintains strong clinical and professional credentials. She is board certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) in both Medical-Surgical Nursing and Nursing Professional Development. These certifications reflect her expertise in patient care and her commitment to advancing the practice and education of nursing professionals. Her clinical background includes experience in medical-surgical nursing and telemetry, as well as roles in nursing professional development and healthcare training.

**Dr. Landry is also actively engaged in professional organizations that support nursing practice, education, and leadership. Her involvement underscores her commitment to staying current with industry standards and contributing to the broader nursing community.**

**Known for her approachable demeanor and dedication to mentorship, Dr. Landry inspires students and colleagues alike. She believes that nursing education extends beyond textbooks and clinical skills—it is about cultivating resilience, professionalism, and a passion for lifelong learning. Through her leadership and teaching, she continues to make a lasting impact on the students she serves and the nursing profession as a whole.**

### **Contact Information**

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