

Improving Undergraduate Nursing Student Attrition

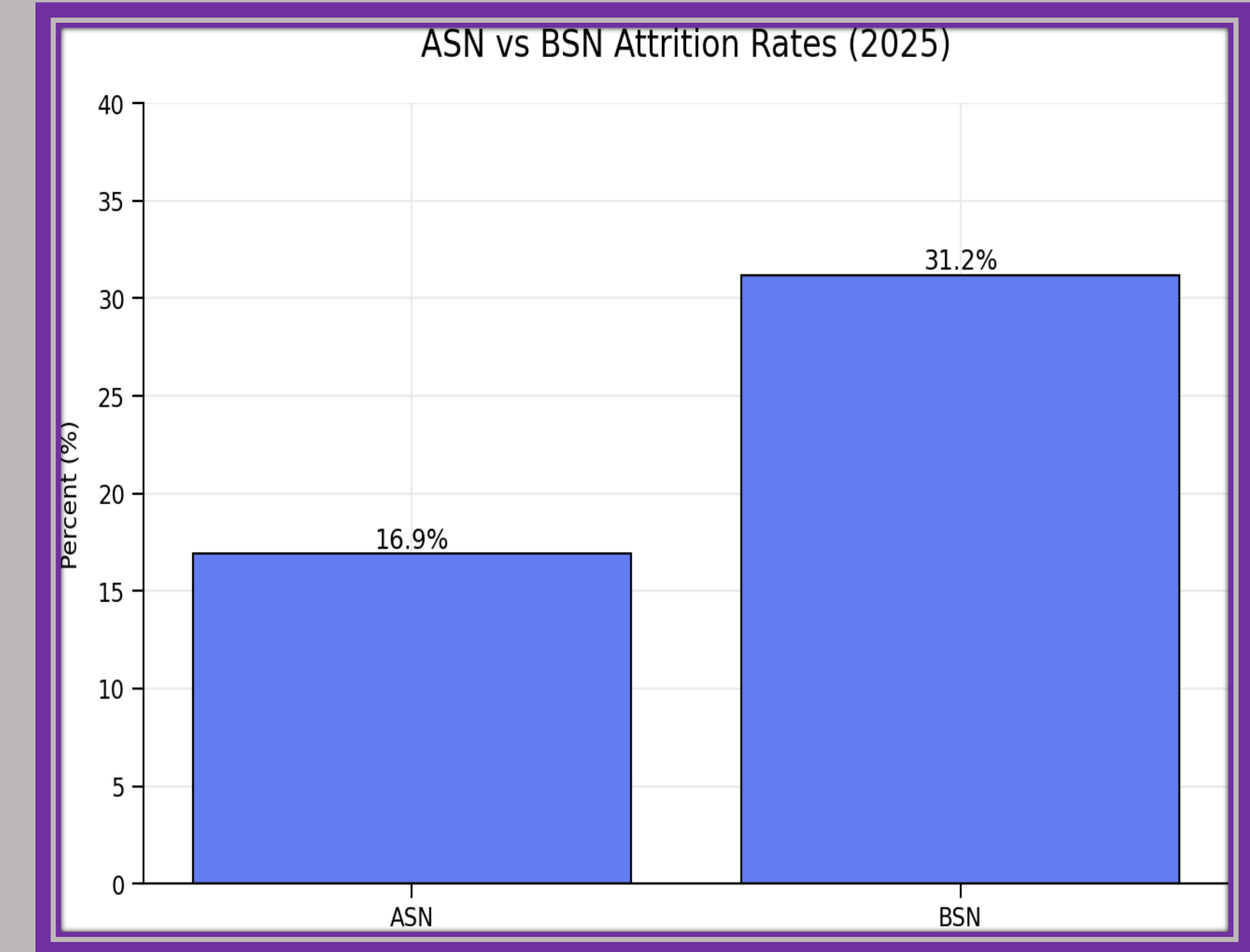
Lisa Wilhite, MSN, FNP-C, Myla Landry, DNP, RN, MEDSURG-BC, NPD-BC



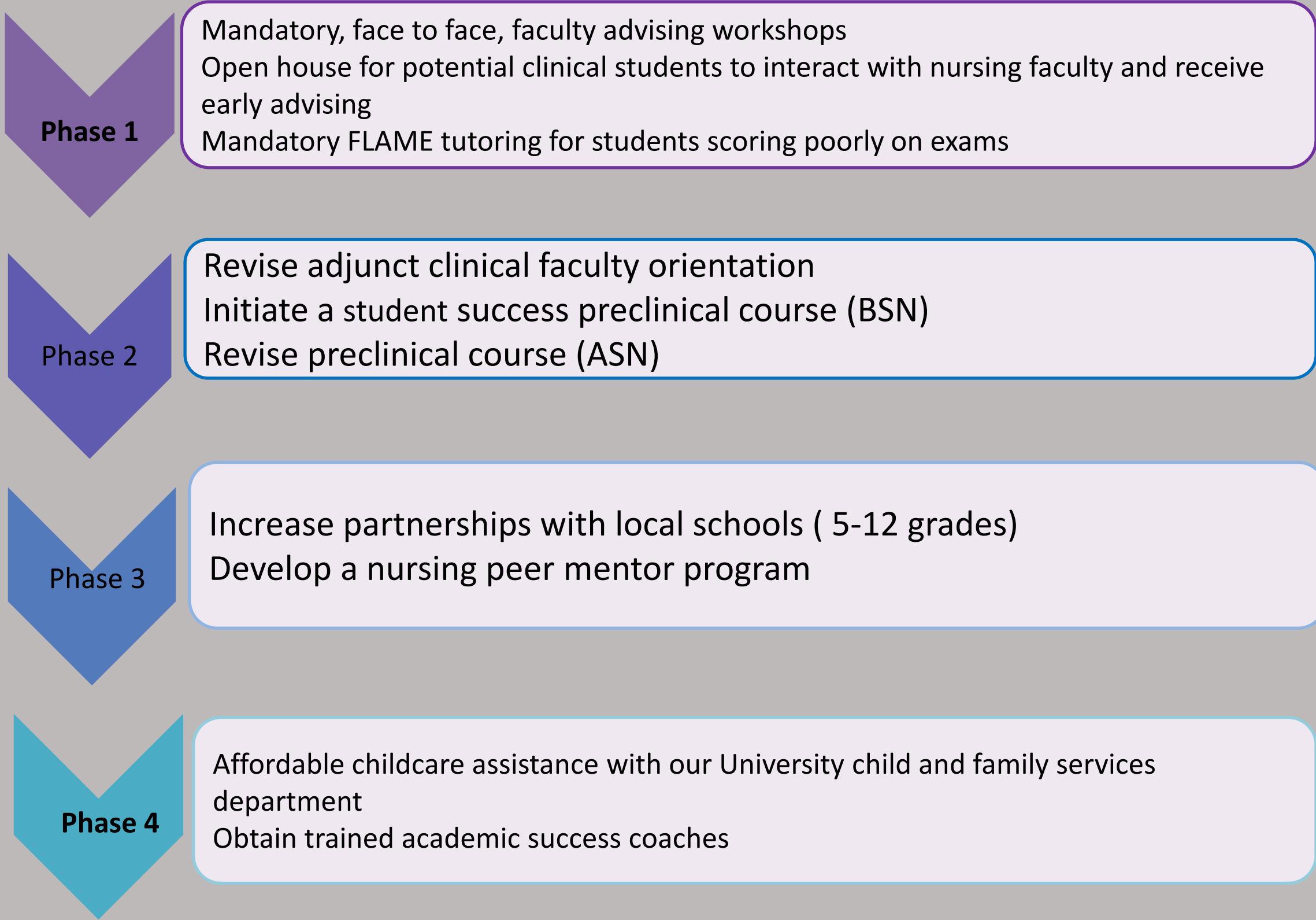
NORTHWESTERN STATE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

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



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Lisa Wilhite, RN,MSN,FNP-c

Biography

Lisa Wilhite serves as ASN Director and Assistant Professor in the Associate of Science in Nursing program at Northwestern State University, where she has dedicated approximately 18 years to nursing education and student success. Throughout her tenure, she has taught medical-surgical and women's health nursing courses while serving in several leadership roles, including Third Level Coordinator, LPN-to-RN and Military Coordinator, and now ASN Director.

Mrs. Wilhite is especially passionate about supporting nontraditional nursing students, including military medics, LPNs, and paramedics pursuing nursing degrees. Her commitment to helping students transition into professional nursing careers led her to her current leadership role, where she continues to mentor and assist students in a variety of concentrations to complete their nursing education.

Before joining Northwestern, Mrs. Wilhite worked as a registered nurse in labor and delivery and medical-surgical units, bringing valuable clinical experience into the classroom. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing Education from Northwestern State University in 2008 and later completed a Post-Master's Certificate as a Family Nurse Practitioner in 2013. She is dedicated to educating, mentoring, and improving student achievement and desires to continue to positively impact the next generation of nurses.

Lisa Wilhite serves as ASN Director and Assistant Professor in the Associate of Science in Nursing program at Northwestern State University, where she has dedicated nearly 18 years to nursing education and student success. Throughout her tenure, she has taught medical-surgical and women's health nursing courses while serving in several leadership roles, including Third Level Coordinator, LPN-to-RN and Military Coordinator, and now ASN Director.

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Contact Information



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