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and Senior Faculty in Leadership Roles*

DIRECTORY

ELAN Cohort VII- 2025-2026



Jerrica Ampadu, PhD, RN

Interim Assistant Dean Graduate Programs
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Dr. Ampadu Dr. Jerrica V. Ampadu is an Associate Professor at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), where she serves as Interim Assistant Dean of Graduate Programs in Nursing and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She is the Principal Investigator for both the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention (NEPQR) Mobile Health Training Program and the Asthma Trigger Assessment Program. Previously, she led the We Care Clinic, a nurse-managed clinic, for four years, with a focus on expanding access to quality care for underserved populations.

Dr. Ampadu holds a Ph.D. in Nursing from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and brings over 27 years of nursing experience and 20 years in higher education. Her expertise includes health equity, workforce diversity, and access to care. She has received numerous honors, including the YWCA Woman of Distinction Award, the Deaconess Foundation's Woman Change Maker in Higher Education, the NAACP Outstanding Leadership Award in Health, and the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award in Case Management, Public Health, and Occupational Health.

A dedicated member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for 25 years, Dr. Ampadu continues to serve communities through advocacy, mentorship, education, and research.



Michelle Michelle Andriacchi, DNP, RN, FNP-BC

Associate Professor, BSN Program Coordinator
Northern Michigan University

Dr. Andriacchi Dr. Michelle Andriacchi is a Tenured Associate Professor and BSN Program Coordinator at Northern Michigan University. She also serves as MSN/NP Clinical Placement Coordinator and is the founder of the Wildpups Animal-Assisted Interventions Program. She teaches undergraduate and graduate/NP/DNP students.

She earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Wayne State University and holds additional degrees in Nursing and Psychology, along with a certificate in Animal-Assisted Interventions from Oakland University.

Her clinical experience includes advanced practice roles in family health and urgent care, and she has prior experience as an RN in the hospital setting.

She has presented at national and regional conferences and published scholarly work in various journals. Her leadership in campus wellness initiatives earned her university and community awards, including the Northern Star Award and the Team Innovation Award.

Dr. Andriacchi is an active member of professional organizations, including AACN, NONPF, Sigma Theta Tau, and MICNP, where she has served in leadership roles.



Elizabeth (Liz) Aquino, PhD, RN, FAAN

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
University of Illinois Chicago

Dr. Aquino, a prominent voice in nursing, serves on local and national boards, advocating for health policy changes and the advancement of the nursing profession. She has served as President of the American Nurses Association-Illinois, driving key policy and advocacy initiatives. Additionally, Dr. Aquino co-founded the Society of Latinx Nurses to support and mentor Latinx professionals in nursing.

To ensure nurse representation in policymaking, Dr. Aquino founded the Nurses Running for Elected Office Training Academy. This initiative aims to inspire, train, and support nurses to run for elected positions. Her efforts have successfully led to more nurses pursuing roles in governance.

Dr. Aquino also champions diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives for nurses, students, and marginalized populations. She served as a subject matter expert for the ANA Commission to Address Racism in Nursing Research and other prominent organizations, advising on equitable access to resources and experiences. Her leadership and service have earned her numerous local and national recognitions and awards.

Dr. Aquino earned her MSN from DePaul University and PhD from the University of Illinois Chicago, College of Nursing.



Brittany Baker, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CNE

Clinical Associate Professor/Assistant Director
for Program Evaluation, East Carolina University

Dr. Baker is a Clinical Associate Professor and Assistant Director for Program Evaluation at East Carolina University College of Nursing in Greenville, NC. She teaches in the Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner tracks and co-leads assessment, evaluation, and accreditation efforts within the College.

In 2024, Dr. Baker began a three-year appointment with the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Patient Engagement Advisory Panel (PEAP). She serves on the University's Committee on Faculty Connection, Access, Retention, and Engagement, and is a co-chair for the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) Inclusive Excellence committee.

Dr. Baker's scholarship interests include patient-centered and community-based approaches to reduce health disparities and teaching/learning practices to advance clinical judgment. She is currently engaged in a SAMHSA-funded grant project aimed at enhancing provider education on substance use disorder in response to eastern North Carolina's opioid epidemic and overdose crisis. Dr. Baker's areas of professional expertise include student and faculty mentorship, program evaluation, and accreditation.

Outside of her professional work, she enjoys traveling with her husband of 11 years and their two daughters, ages 3 and 8.



LeeAnn Barfield, PhD, DNP, APRN-BC, CNE, FACHE

Assistant Dean of Graduate & Clinical Programs
Florida State University

Dr. Barfield is Assistant Dean for Graduate & Clinical Programs at Florida State University College of Nursing. She directs MSN, DNP, and PhD programs, spearheading curriculum innovation, accreditation, faculty mentorship, and clinical partnerships. As an Adult-Gerontologic Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, she fuses clinical mastery with academic leadership to advance nursing education, research, and healthcare delivery.

A Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and Certified Nurse Educator, Dr. Barfield excels in leadership and pedagogy. She champions interprofessional education (IPE), securing \$130,000 in Nurse Faculty Loan funding (2024) to enhance workforce readiness amid shortages. Her policy advocacy elevates nurse practitioners' roles in healthcare systems.

Dr. Barfield shapes policy reform, pushing for equitable graduate education funding and nurse-led care models. Her work in correctional healthcare oversight, lifestyle medicine, and IPE improves patient outcomes and access, reflecting her commitment to systemic change.

Passionate about mentoring, she molds nurse leaders while propelling FSU's programs to national prominence. With extensive roles in NONPF and FNA, Dr. Barfield's vision and influence mark her as a transformative leader, poised to redefine nursing education, strengthen healthcare delivery, and inspire professional excellence on a grand scale.



Brittany (Britt) Beasley, Ph.D., RN, CNE

Assistant Professor
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Dr. Beasley is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences where she teaches undergraduate and graduate students. Her research focuses on telehealth in acute care and nursing education innovation. She mentors BSN honors students, coordinates acute care clinical experiences, and has designed and taught a graduate-level telehealth course. Dr. Beasley is engaged in faculty governance, chairing various college and university committees, as well as serving on the Academic Senate.





Kim Belcik, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, CNE

Clinical Associate Professor
Texas A&M University

Dr. Belcik is a clinical associate professor at Texas A&M University College of Nursing. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in 2002, completed her PhD at the University of Texas at Austin in 2011, and most recently obtained her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, becoming a board-certified family nurse practitioner. Since 2002, she has been an active member of the Texas Nurses Association, where she has served as Vice-President and chaired the Policy Council. Additionally, she is involved with Texas Nurse Practitioners and volunteers in medically underserved communities. Her research focuses on fostering cultures of scholarly caring in nursing schools, re-envisioning relationships between nursing faculty and students, and utilizing open educational resources.



Katherine (Kati) Bravo, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC

BSN Director
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Dr. Bravo is an Assistant Professor who has worked in academia since 2005. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Creighton University, and her Masters and PhD in Nursing from University of Nebraska Medical Center. She currently serves in the role of University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Undergraduate Program Director. Dr. Bravo is also the Co-Director of the UNMC Health Design Thinking Program where she works with an interprofessional team to embed a human-centered mindset into solving complex problems.

In addition to her current administrative role, Dr. Bravo currently teaches courses in the baccalaureate tracks in the areas of leadership, professionalism and policy. She is passionate about helping students find value in the diverse qualities of nursing and the ways that a nursing career can enhance their lives and the lives of the patients and families they serve. Dr. Bravo's research interests include educational enhancements, patient safety and the use of Design Thinking to develop innovative healthcare solutions.





Leanne Burke, EdD, MSN, CNM, RNC-OB

Health Sciences Clinical Professor, Director of Teaching Excellence and Innovation, University of California Irvine

Dr. Burke has extensive experience caring for childbearing families. Her passion for teaching prelicensure nursing students emerged during her MSN program, inspiring her to share knowledge and improve patient care. With over two decades of teaching experience, Dr. Burke pursued a Doctor of Education in Nursing Education at Southern Connecticut State University to enhance her pedagogical skills.

Dr. Burke's scholarly interests focus on student success, nursing education, and maternal newborn nursing. She has explored doula support to reduce perinatal adverse outcomes. As former Program Director for BS and MS in Nursing Science Programs at the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing at the University of California, Irvine, she balanced administration with teaching theory, clinical, and simulation courses while maintaining current evidence-based practices.

Currently serving as the Inaugural Director of Teaching Excellence and Innovation at UC Irvine, Dr. Burke implements best teaching practices, develops programs addressing the nursing shortage, and cultivates nursing education leaders. Most recently, she established the Center of Excellence in Nursing Education at the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing to advance nursing education and practice, continuing to shape the next generation of healthcare professionals.



Katie Busby, PhD, RN, CNE, RNC-OB

Department of Nursing Chair
University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Dr. Busby is an Assistant Professor and Nursing Department Chair at the Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. Dr. Busby earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Kentucky, her Master of Science in Nursing Administration from Indiana University, and a Doctorate in Philosophy from Indiana University. She holds certifications from the National League for Nursing as a Certified Nurse Educator and the National Certification Corporation as a Certified Registered Nurse in Inpatient Obstetric Nursing.

A long-time nurse educator, Dr. Busby is currently an Assistant Professor of Nursing, where she has experience in pre-licensure and RN baccalaureate nursing programs, teaching public health nursing, maternal-child health, and health promotion. Her scholarship focuses on mentoring relationships and programs in academia, and she is a published author and presenter in nursing education and academic mentoring relationships and programs. Dr. Busby is also a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholar and is the recipient of DAISY Award for Extraordinary Faculty. She lives outside of Denver with her family.



Gloria Carr, PhD, APRN

Department Chair
The University of Memphis

Dr. Carr is an accomplished academician and leader. She is a Tenured Associate Professor at the Loewenberg College of Nursing at the University of Memphis. Dr. Carr is an inaugural Department Chair for the Acute, Chronic, and Continuing Care Science Department with 22 Faculty and 1 Administrative Staff. She is an Advanced Practice Nurse who holds a PhD in Nursing Education with a focus on Vulnerable Populations from the University of Texas, Arlington. Dr. Carr has been recognized through awards and nominations for excellence in teaching and mentoring. She holds in high regards the next generation of Nurse Researchers, Nurse Educators, and Nurse Clinicians. In this regard, she is passionate about establishing well-being in nurses to mitigate nurse burnout.

Dr Carr has established many collaborative relationships in the Nursing Education community. As a Nurse educator and researcher, she partnered and collaborated with Sigma Theta Tau International [STTI] and the Beta Theta at-Large Chapter's board to establish an annual Research Day, which has been increasingly impactful with each year's event.

Noteworthy to mention is Dr. Carr's role as the University Faculty Ombudsperson, requiring massive patience, empathy, and collegiality while garnering trust and respect from Faculty and University Administrators.



Sonya Cox, DNSc, APRN-CNP, RN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC

Director of Advanced Practice - PMHNP Programs
Simmons University

Dr. Cox is a dedicated graduate nursing educator. She serves as the inaugural program director for master's and post-graduate certificate psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (NP) programs at Simmons University. She has extensive experience in nursing education and completed an Online Minority Nurse Educator certificate. Dr. Cox is board certified as a Family and Psychiatric Mental Health NP. She has been awarded three clinical recognitions: Nashville Star for outstanding patient care; 2019 Good Samaritan Foundation Excellence in Nursing Award – Bronze; and provider "Clinician Spotlight" Recognition of Achievement. Her research interests are sleep quality, racism, and resilience in Black stroke survivors. Dr. Cox is engaged in a mixed method research partnership focusing on the effects of racism and resilience on Black stroke survivors' quality of life with peer reviewed publications. Professional affiliations include the American Nurses Association (ANA), American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA), Neuroscience Education Institute (NEI), and National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF). Her passion is promoting wellness, self-care, serving underserved populations, and student success.





Jill Dapremont, EdD, RN, CNE

Professor | Department Chair
University of Memphis

Dr. Dapremont is a Tenured Professor and Inaugural Department Chair for Family, Community, and Health System Science (FCHSS) at Loewenberg College of Nursing, University of Memphis. The FCHSS comprises a range of specialty areas aligned to foster a dynamic and collaborative environment that promotes teaching, research, and service excellence. Dr. Dapremont has EdD in Education (2008), a Master of Science in Nursing from Louisiana State University Health Science Center (LSUHSC), (1987), and a Bachelor of Nursing degree from Dillard University (1984). She is a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE). She taught at Delgado Community College, NOLA (1992-2006) before relocating to Memphis, TN. She has over 30 years in higher education.

Dr. Dapremont has published extensively on minority student success strategies. She is the Co-I on a 1.5-million-dollar grant from the National Institute of Health on Minority Health Disparities (NIHMHD) “Policy Pathways to Breast Health Equity in Racially Segregated Areas with Concentrated Poverty”.

Dr. Dapremont has served in multiple leadership positions in higher education, including, Past President of University of Memphis Faculty Senate (2021-2022), Past-President of Sigma, Beta Theta At-Large, the International Nursing Honor Society, Board of Directors for Tennessee Nursing Association (TNA) District 1, and Treasurer for (TNA).



Crystel Farina, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE, CHSE, ANEF

Associate Dean of Prelicensure & Programs
The George Washington University

Dr. Farina served for seven years as the Director of Simulation and Experiential Learning (SAIL) and is currently the Associate Dean for Prelicensure and BSN Programs at the George Washington University School of Nursing. She is leading a collaboration with faculty to facilitate programmatic changes that meet the AACN Essentials and is establishing a direct-entry MSN program. She was selected to author and present in the massive open online course (MOOC) “Essentials in Clinical Simulations Across the Health Professions”, released in July 2019 that currently has over 23,000 views. Prior to George Washington University, Dr. Farina was the Director of Simulation for Health Professions at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, Maryland. While there, she was honored as an “educational innovator” selected for the Stuart M. Bounds Distinguished Teaching Chair. Dr. Farina is the Chief Financial Officer of SIMPL Simulation, LLC, a simulation education consulting firm established in 2017. Dr. Farina is an active volunteer for professional organizations, including the National League for Nursing and the Society for Simulation in Healthcare. She serves as peer-reviewer for Clinical Simulation in Nursing. She maintains certifications as Nurse Educator (CNE) and Healthcare Simulation Educator (CHSE).



Anne Fink, PhD RN CNE FAHA

Associate Professor
University of Illinois Chicago

Dr. Fink is an Associate Professor and Department Head in the College of Nursing at the University of Illinois Chicago. Dr. Fink's research program examines sleep neurobiology, cardiovascular disease development, and occupational health. Her team studies the physical and psychological consequences of chronically inadequate sleep to determine effects on cardiovascular health (e.g., high blood pressure with shift-work sleep disorder). She mentors early-career scientists in an interdisciplinary neuroscience program and teaches physiology, pathophysiology, and pharmacology courses to nurse practitioner students and research-focused doctoral students.



Anitra Frederick, PhD, RN, CNE

Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies;
Assistant Professor of Nursing, UT Health Houston

Dr. Frederick is the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies and an Assistant Professor at UTHealth-Houston Cizik School of Nursing. She obtained a BSN from Texas Woman's University, an MSN with a concentration in Pediatric Primary Care Advanced Practice Nursing, a Post-Masters Certificate in Nursing Education, and a PhD in Nursing Research all from UTHealth. Dr. Frederick is an NLN Certified Nurse Educator. She has published and presented nationally and internationally in the areas of maternal-newborn attachment and nursing education.

Dr. Frederick has held numerous leadership positions throughout her academic nursing career. While on faculty at OUHSC, she held the position of Administrative Vice President to the local STTI chapter. At UTHealth, she served as Chair of the Faculty/Staff Wellness Committee during tumultuous pandemic years. As Director of the Pacesetter BSN program, she helped guide the department through a curricular change and served on several advisory boards for hospital-based nursing residency programs. She is the current Chair of the School's Faculty Life Council which operates as the decision-making body for all matters affecting faculty life. Dr. Frederick is a passionate nurse educator and leader who strives to bring care, respect, and excellence to all aspects of her work.





Eva Fried, DNP, CNM, WHNP, FACNM

Clinical Director for Midwifery and Women’s Health
Frontier Nursing University

Dr. Fried Eva Fried is an experienced midwifery and women’s health clinician and educator. In addition to teaching and clinical practice, she has made significant contributions to the professions of midwifery and advanced practice nursing through writing, advocacy work, and community building. In her work as faculty member and director, Eva demonstrates commitment to excellence in distance education, fostering belongingness and community in distance education, and informing every step of each student’s experience from application through graduation with a diversity, equity, and inclusion framework. Eva continues to work in clinical practice in addition to her work in an academic environment.



Sally O. Gerard, DNP, RN, CDE, CNL

Professor, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies
Fairfield University

Dr. Gerard is a Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. Additionally, she is Program Director for The Nurse Leadership and MSN/MBA programs. She has been in nursing for over 30 years with a strong background in critical care nursing, acute care education and improvement science. Dr. Gerard specializes in diabetes and is a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist. Her research focus is on glycemic control and improvement of patient related outcomes. She is passionate about the professional role of nurses and nursing students in health promotion and quality care. She completed a national partnership of healthcare improvement practices with The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. She has a doctoral degree from Case Western Reserve University in Educational Leadership. Dr. Gerard has developed a number of programs in the Egan School over the last 15 years. Her program redesign of Master of Nursing Leadership earned an American Association of Colleges of Nursing Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Award.

In 2016, she was awarded the Clinical Nurse Educator of the Year by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Dr. Gerard has published and presented on glycemic control, quality improvement and leadership nationally and internationally.





Heidi He, DNP, FNP, CHSE, CNE

Founding DNP Program Director
California State University, Bakersfield

Dr. He is a Professor and Founding DNP Program Director in the Department of Nursing at California State University, Bakersfield, as well as a nationally certified Family Nurse Practitioner with over 30 years of clinical experience, primarily serving underserved populations. With experience teaching in both undergraduate and graduate nursing programs, she has been a strong advocate for increasing health workforce diversity and increasing well prepared health care providers to meet the regional demand. Dr. He has successfully secured over \$10 million in external funding for more than 20 projects and serves as the Project Director for multiple HRSA-funded initiatives. Her current projects focus on enhancing workforce diversity among nurse practitioners and improving undergraduate nursing students' practice readiness through simulation-based education. As a Certified Nurse Educator, a Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator, and an active member of the NONPF Simulation Committee, Dr. He has made significant contributions to advancing best practices in simulation-based education. She has received multiple awards recognizing her scholarship, leadership, and clinical practice excellence and is the author of book chapters, published in peer-reviewed journals, and presenter at numerous local, regional, and national conferences.



Michelle Heyland, DNP, APRN-FPA, PMHNP-BC

Program Director, Associate Professor
Rush University

Dr. Heyland is the Director of the Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) program and an Associate Professor at Rush University College of Nursing. Michelle has been involved in several matters relating to faculty governance including acting as the Presiding Officer of the College of Nursing's Faculty Council and the Chair-Elect for University Faculty Council. Michelle has been involved in the Living Room network which provides community-based mental health crisis centers aimed at avoiding visits to the emergency room for psychiatric reasons. Most recently, Michelle submitted her first HRSA grant aimed at enhancing the behavioral health workforce specializing in the high-risk child and adolescent population. She also serves as a consultant on another HRSA grant- the Advanced Nursing Education Workforce grant. She has contributed to nursing literature through publications of books chapters, manuscripts, and editorials. She has presented at a variety of different local and national professional nursing conferences. She serves as a manuscript reviewer for several peer reviewed professional nursing and mental health journals. Michelle is also a practicing PMHNP with Full Practice Authority in the State of Illinois. She owns and operates a small private practice in addition to her teaching career.





Judson LaGrone, PhD, MSN, RN, CVRN-BC, CNE

Interim Articulation Director
Lamar University

Dr. LaGrone is a seasoned emergency and cardiac nurse, leader, and educator. He is an Assistant Professor at Lamar University's JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing. His academic journey includes a BSN from East Texas Baptist University, an MSN in nursing education from Texas A&M University, and a PhD in nursing research from UTMB Galveston. Recognized as an Interprofessional Scholar during his doctoral studies, Dr. LaGrone has a wealth of experience in interdisciplinary collaboration. He is certified as a Cardiovascular Registered Nurse (CVRN-BC) and has held leadership roles in cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology labs. He is dedicated to teaching and mentoring students in leadership, nursing inquiry, evidence-based practice, professional integration, and simulation. His commitment to creating a supportive learning environment fosters self-discovery and professionalism among future nurses. Dr. LaGrone founded the Dishman SON AAMN Chapter, promoting inclusivity for all nursing students. He collaborates on a federally funded grant for rural health literacy and chronic care through distance education and telemedicine, as well as a locally funded grant addressing homelessness in Southeast Texas. His research focuses on traumatic events experienced by critical care nurses and the impact of work culture on their response and coping mechanisms.



Ann Lawani, PhD, MSN, RN

Statewide Program Director
University of San Francisco

Dr. Lawani holds a Ph.D. in Nursing from the University of San Diego and brings a multidisciplinary background in small business accounting, clinical nursing, and healthcare leadership. As a practicing registered nurse, she has provided care across diverse clinical settings—from acute care to hospice—for adult patients with cardiopulmonary conditions, stroke, orthopedic injuries, and Cystic Fibrosis.

Dr. Lawani's research focuses on palliative care and healthcare utilization among patients with advanced cancer, care of chronically ill older adults, and end-of-life transitions. Her scholarship is informed by a commitment to equity, compassionate care, and improving outcomes for vulnerable populations.

She is deeply committed to fostering diversity and inclusion in nursing education, with a special focus on mentoring first-generation nursing students. In her current role as Statewide Program Director for the Master's Entry – Master of Science in Nursing (ME-MSN) program at the University of San Francisco, Dr. Lawani combines academic leadership with a passion for student success and professional excellence.



Mercy Ngosa Mumba, PhD, RN, FAAN

Associate Dean for Global Initiatives
and Community Partnerships
The University of Alabama

Dr. Mumba is an award-winning scientist, Professor, and the Associate Dean for Global Initiatives and Community Partnerships at the Capstone College of Nursing, University of Alabama. Her research is widely funded by various agencies, including the NIH, with over \$35 million in grant funding. Dr. Mumba is the Founding Director of the Center for Substance Use Research and Related Conditions, and she serves as the President-Elect of the Southern Nursing Research Society. She is a former Sigma Liaison to the United Nations and the author of the award-winning book “A nurse’s step-by-step guide to transitioning to an academic role: Strategies to jumpstart your career in education and research”. She is the substance use and related disorders section editor for the Journal of Psychosocial Nursing and Mental Health Services. Her research focuses on substance use disorders, addictive behaviors, and their comorbid mental and behavioral health conditions. Dr. Mumba is passionate about improving health and the human condition through evidence-based initiatives, and is a strong advocate for increasing research productivity, infrastructure, and human capital globally. She is personally involved in many initiatives that improve health care outcomes and promote holistic wellness and quality of life among individuals and communities worldwide.



Heather Nelson-Brantley, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CNE, FAAN

Associate Professor & Director, Nurse Executive DNP Pathway
and Nursing Health Systems Leadership MSN Pathway
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Nelson-Brantley is a tenured Associate Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she leads the Nurse Executive DNP and Nursing Health Systems Leadership MSN pathways. A nationally recognized expert in nursing leadership and implementation science, she has secured over \$15.6 million in funding across 29 studies. As President of the Association for Leadership Science in Nursing (ALSN) and an editorial board member of the Journal of Nursing Administration, she advances the field of nursing leadership science through research, education, and practice. Dr. Nelson-Brantley’s work focuses on change leadership, nurse recruitment and retention, and improving cancer and palliative care services for rural and minoritized populations. She has received several prestigious accolades, including the ALSN Early Careerist Award, Betty Irene Moore Nurse Leaders and Innovators Fellowship, and Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar. As Co-Founder of the Kansas Nursing Workforce Center, she united leaders across academic, health care, government, and industry sectors to strengthen nursing workforce solutions. With over a decade of experience in business and marketing, she brings a strategic lens to nursing leadership, shaping the future of healthcare through policy, education, and innovation.





Tonychris Nnaka, PhD, MPH, RN, CPH

Associate Dean for Research and Associate Professor of Nursing, The University of North Texas Health Science Center

Dr. Nnaka is an Associate Professor of Nursing and serves as the founding Associate Dean for Research at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC), College of Nursing in Fort Worth, Texas. A nurse scientist and epidemiologist, his research focuses on improving health outcomes among ethnic populations living with heart diseases through digital therapeutics. Dr. Nnaka is a dual T-32 trained researcher at the University of Texas at Austin and the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College. Dr. Nnaka, alongside his leadership peers, built and launched an innovative and unparalleled nursing program, introducing one of the first-ever competency-based Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees in Nursing at UNTHSC CON. Dr. Nnaka’s reach expands beyond academics and research; he has extensive experience in policy, in various capacities in public health and policy, through his prior work as a fellow at the United States Department of Health and Human Services Region 6 Immediate Office of the Regional Director and most recently serving as the Health Policy Advisor to the City of Dallas Mayor. Dr. Nnaka is committed to bringing transformational changes in the academic preparation of nurses across all ranks and bridging the gaps between nursing science, practice, and policy.



Courtney Orelup-Fitzgerald, PhD, RN, CNE, CPN

Assistant Professor of Nursing, Department Chair Assumption University

Dr. Orelup-Fitzgerald is an enthusiastic certified nurse educator specializing in pediatric health content in pre-licensure nursing programs. Courtney received her BSN and MSN from Simmons University and her PhD in Nursing from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Courtney is currently an item writer for the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board and has served as a mentor for the Society of Pediatric Nurses’ mentorship program. Courtney is active in both state and national nursing workforce organization committees, recently leading the development of a recommendation to develop nurse on-the-job training programs to support the nursing workforce and improve retention. Courtney volunteers as a peer reviewer for multiple journals and completed an editorial fellowship with The American Journal of Maternal Child Health. Courtney’s research investigates the barriers marginalized health care students face in clinical education, and challenges to their transition to practice after graduation.





Lisa Otto, PhD, MSN, RN, CHSE, CNE

Assistant Dean Clinical Learning and Simulation
Tarleton State University

Dr. Otto is the Assistant Dean for Clinical Learning and Simulation and a Clinical Assistant Professor at Tarleton State University School of Nursing. She earned a PhD in Learning Technologies from the University of North Texas, and both an MSN in Patient Care Management and a BSN from Baylor University School of Nursing. Dr. Otto's research and scholarship interests focus on interruption management, simulation, and educational technologies.

In 2023, Dr. Otto co-authored the Innovative Faculty Development through Simulation and Technology Integration Project that secured a \$391,012 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund. The funds established a virtual reality lab at Tarleton State University School of Nursing and supported faculty training in simulation facilitation. She has presented at local, national, and international nursing, healthcare simulation, and education conferences and published her work in conference proceedings. Dr. Otto was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau at Baylor University and Phi Kappa Phi while at University of North Texas. She is a member of INACSL and SSH. Committed to enhancing student learning through simulation-based education, she received the 2021 College of Health Sciences and Human Services' Engaged Faculty Award at Tarleton State University.



Keili Peterman, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC

Interim Associate Dean of Accreditation and Evaluation
for the College of Nursing and Health Professions
Lamar University

Dr. Peterman is an Assistant Professor and the Assistant Director for Articulation and Accreditation at Lamar University's Dishman School of Nursing in Beaumont, Texas. Dr. Peterman holds a PhD from the University of Texas Medical Branch, a BS in Biology from the University of North Texas as well as a BSN, an MSN in Nursing Administration, and an MBA with a healthcare concentration from Lamar University. With experience as an emergency department nurse and hospice administrator, Dr. Peterman transitioned to academia in 2015 and primarily teaches leadership and management as well as transition to practice courses in the undergraduate program. Her excellence in teaching and research has earned her awards from the Texas Organization of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Education (TOBGNE) in Teaching Innovation and Excellence in Research. She is also certified as a Nurse Executive, Advanced (NEA-BC) by the ANCC. As the Assistant Director for Articulation and Accreditation, Dr. Peterman works closely with administration, staff, faculty, and students to oversee the articulation tracks' management and academic excellence to ensure student success. Dr. Peterman's current research interests include healthcare leadership, organizational culture, the nursing work environment, and its impact on nursing satisfaction, retention, and quality patient care outcomes.





Nicole Peters Kroll, PhD, APRN, ANP-C, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC

Clinical Associate Professor
Texas A&M University

Dr. Peters Kroll is the Associate Dean for Clinical and Outreach Affairs and a Clinical Associate Professor at Texas A&M University College of Nursing. With 24 years of nursing experience and 14 years in education, she has established herself as a leader in healthcare and academia. Dr. Kroll earned her Ph.D. from the University of Texas Tyler, specializing in Nursing Education, Leadership, and Health Impact. She also holds a Master of Science as an Adult Nurse Practitioner from Texas Woman's University, with additional post master's certifications as a Psychiatric Mental Health and Family Nurse Practitioner.

Dr. Kroll's administrative expertise includes roles such as Associate Dean and Assistant Director for Clinical and Outreach Affairs, Assistant Director of Graduate Studies and Occupational Health Director. Her teaching spans undergraduate to graduate levels in both traditional and online modalities. A driven researcher, she focuses on improving healthcare access and has led multiple funded projects. Passionate about clinical innovation, she fosters partnerships and expands nursing practice to enrich patient care and workforce development. Dr. Kroll's leadership continues to shape health policy and the future of nursing education.



Christina Quick, DNP, APRN, CPNP-AC/PC, CHSE

Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Nursing Simulation
Grand Valley State University

Dr. Quick is associate Professor and Director of Graduate Nursing Simulation at the Kirkhof College of Nursing at Grand Valley State University. Dr. Quick directs high fidelity simulation across graduate nursing curricula, leads the Child and Adolescent nurse practitioner track, and chairs governance committees responsible for program evaluation, faculty development, and curriculum design. Dr. Quick has secured over \$1.7 million in external funding and now serves as project lead on projects that expand simulation-based learning and improve care for vulnerable pediatric populations. Her scholarship addresses workforce preparation, integrated care for youth in foster care, and simulation pedagogy. In collaboration with her team, she disseminates evidence-based simulation strategies and competency assessment methods at national conferences, supporting colleagues who seek to adopt best practices. Recognized as a Distinguished Early Career Scholar, Dr. Quick enjoys mentoring junior faculty and students, fostering interprofessional collaboration, and guiding community assessments that unite healthcare partners around shared goals. In addition to organizational leadership, Dr. Quick serves in elected leadership roles with the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners at the state and national levels, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Nursing to shape the future of nursing education through innovation, mentorship, and policy development.





Karen Reed, DHSc, MSN, RN, CRRN, CNE

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs –
Undergraduate Education
University of Florida

Dr. Reed is a Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs- Undergraduate Education at the University of Florida (UF) College of Nursing. She earned her BSN from Troy University, her MSN from the University of Alabama-Birmingham and a Doctor of Health Science from Nova Southeastern University. She is a Certified Rehabilitation RN and a Certified Nurse Educator.

Dr. Reed's body of scholarship focuses on capacity development among international nursing education programs and professional nurses in SE Asia. Career highlights include receipt of the Fulbright Scholar Award to Cambodia in 2013-2014. Then Summer 2023 received a UF Faculty Enhancement Opportunity Grant where she collaborated with the Cambodian Ministry of Health on a WHO project developing professional development materials addressing healthcare acquired infections.

Dr. Reed is currently a US Fulbright Specialist and during Summer 2023, conducted faculty development programs at Vin University, Hanoi, Vietnam, whose students will be the first in their country to take the NCLEX exam upon graduation. Locally, she mentors teams of University of Florida undergraduate nursing students to address health disparities among international students attending US universities, and she creates team projects which promote heightened engagement through service learning on the UF campus.



Neal Reeves, MBA, DNP, CNE, NI-BC, Alumnus CCRN

Associate Professor
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Dr. Reeves is an associate professor and specialty coordinator for the nursing administration track at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Nursing. He teaches across all program levels (BSN, MNSc, and DNP). As a United States Army veteran, he combines his military leadership experiences with his leadership students to instill ethical leadership competencies, resilience, and teamwork into practice. Holding graduate degrees in Business Administration and Informatics, Dr. Reeves brings those experiences into the healthcare arena for nursing and champions the causes for better nursing working environments and healthcare options for the marginalized in society through education and policy reform. Dr. Reeves is committed to mentoring and fostering excellence in nursing research, education, and practice, exemplifying his holistic and collaborative approach to healthcare.



Shannon Richard, PhD, RN

Associate Dean and Associate Professor
University of Nevada, Reno

Dr. Richard is the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies at the Orvis School of Nursing, University of Nevada, Reno. With over twelve years of experience in undergraduate and accelerated nursing education, she brings a student-centered philosophy grounded in civility, approachability, and innovation. Her expertise includes pathophysiology, pharmacology, simulation, clinical development, and emergency and critical care nursing. She employs active learning strategies and advanced technology to enhance student engagement and knowledge application.

Dr. Richard earned her PhD in Nursing Science from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and holds master's, bachelor's, and associate degrees in nursing, along with certifications in nurse education and emergency care. Her research focuses on health disparities among Hispanic/Latinx populations, gender-ethnic differences in disease, and the links between chronic illness and psychological well-being. Her teaching excellence has been recognized through numerous awards, including the F. Donald Tibbitts Distinguished Teaching Award, multiple Most Inspirational Faculty Awards, and the 2024 Sigma-Nu Iota Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurse Educator.



Heidi Ritchie, PhD, RN

Director of BSN Programs; Assistant Professor
Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Dr. Ritchie recently received her PhD in Nursing Education from the University of Northern Colorado. She has 30 years of clinical experience in a variety of areas and has spent the last 10 years in undergraduate nursing education. She is the Director of BSN programs for a regional university in Oklahoma. She works in both administration and teaching in her current role. Her research interests include mentoring of new nursing faculty and disorienting dilemmas Registered Nurses experience in clinical practice. She maintains a clinical practice as a prn staff nurse in cardiac rehabilitation and also teaches ECG monitoring at a local hospital. She and her husband have been married for 25 years and have 2 teenage sons. Hobbies include hiking, skiing, reading, and cooking.





Sharon Ruyak, PhD, CNM, FACNM

Associate Professor and PhD Program Director
University of New Mexico

Dr. Ruyak is an Associate Professor and PhD Program Director at the University of New Mexico College of Nursing and the Leah Albers Endowed Professor of Midwifery. Dr. Ruyak has over 37 years of clinical experience as a Labor and Delivery Nurse and Certified Nurse-Midwife. She has 20 years of experience as an educator in BSN, MSN, and PhD programs and is committed to fostering the growth of future nurse leaders and nurse scientists. Dr. Ruyak’s research focuses on the intersection between chronic stress exposure and substance use in the perinatal population with a specific focus on perinatal mental health. She has received funding to advance knowledge of novel ecological momentary assessment measures and wearable devices to examine associations between stress exposures and substance use in pregnant and postpartum women. Dr. Ruyak has recently expanded this work to the population of academic nurse educators. Dr. Ruyak is a Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health Nonprofit State Policy Fellow (2023-2024). She also is a founding and current Board of Directors member on the New Mexico Chapter of Postpartum Support International and currently serves as chapter secretary. Dr. Ruyak is a Fellow of the American College of Nurse Midwives.



Elizabeth Salt, PhD, APRN, MSN, BSN, RN

Professor, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs
University of Kentucky

Dr. Salt is a Professor at the University of Kentucky College of Nursing. Elizabeth received her BSN, MSN and PhD from the University of Kentucky College of Nursing and following completion of her PhD in 2009, continued in a faculty role. She has also obtained a certificate in clinical and translational science. Elizabeth serves as Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs and was previously Assistant Dean of Accreditation and Chair of Undergraduate Student Enrichment and Scholarship at the College of Nursing. Her primary teaching role is in the undergraduate program. Elizabeth conducts research in medication adherence, patient-provider communication, and patient-provider relationships in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. She also studies the relationship between biomechanical and psychosocial factors in patients with low back pain. An additional research interest is factors affecting child well-being. Elizabeth has served the college, university, profession, and community in several capacities including but not limited to University Senate Council, College of Nursing Faculty Council, Board Member of Kentucky Nursing Action Coalition. She currently serves on the Kentucky Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel and a member of a Citizen’s Foster Care Review Board.





Michael Sanchez, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP

Florida International University
Chair, Graduate Nursing Department

Michael Sanchez, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, FAANP, is currently Chair of the Graduate Nursing Department, Director of the Doctor of Nursing Program, and Clinical Associate Professor at the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences at Florida International University. Dr. Sanchez has extensive clinical experience as a nurse practitioner in primary care, HIV prevention and management, and working with populations of economically disadvantaged backgrounds. His research area of interest includes HIV prevention, sexual health research, and behavioral interventions for linkage and engagement in HIV preventive services among sexual minority men. Before joining Florida International University, Dr. Sanchez was an assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing and a nurse practitioner with the Department of Infectious Diseases at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He graduated from the University of Miami and the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Sanchez is a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.



Amanda Schuster, PhD, RN

Professor of Nursing
Baker University

Dr. Schuster is a Professor of Nursing at the Baker University School of Nursing. She earned her BSN from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, MSN from Fort Hays State University, and PhD in Nursing Education from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley. Dr. Schuster has been a nurse for 20 years and a nurse educator for over 13 years. She currently teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses.

Dr. Schuster's research and scholarship focus on nursing education, particularly mindset, belongingness, and retention strategies. She is a member of the Kansas State Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association, and Sigma Theta Tau.



Tara Serwetnyk, EdD, RN, NPD-BC, FNAP

Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing, Director of Assessment and Academic Innovation University of Rochester Medical Center

Dr. Serwetnyk is an associate professor of clinical nursing at University of Rochester School of Nursing (URSON). As the Director of Assessment and Academic Innovation, she oversees instructional design, the development of learning resources, and the implementation of educational technology. Dr. Serwetnyk also leads school-wide assessment strategies to measure and improve student learning outcomes in alignment with program goals and accreditation standards. She played a pivotal role in launching the School’s iROC initiative, earning recognition as an Apple Distinguished School in 2021. Dr. Serwetnyk has focused her research on innovative teaching strategies to improve outcomes. In addition to her work at URSON, she led two research studies at the University of Rochester Medical Center to evaluate training outcomes for online and hybrid American Heart Association Life Support courses, leading to the implementation of the Resuscitation Quality Improvement program across disciplines. She has presented nationally on education technology, instructional design, student engagement, and active learning strategies to foster student engagement and the development of critical thinking skills.



Sommer Shackelford, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CNE

Interim Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Nursing Studies
Lamar University

Dr. Shackelford is an Assistant Professor at the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing at Lamar University, where she facilitates BSN admissions, has served as a contributor on multiple externally funded grants, is a FY2026 CFR Junior Research Fellow, and has received internal grant funding for the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s 2024 Summer Research Fellowship. Since 2018, Dr. Shackelford has served the JGDSON as a nurse educator and taught courses in pre-nursing, pre-licensure, articulation, and graduate program tracks. Her research includes metabolic syndrome, lifestyle modification, waist circumference measurement in primary care, the impact of interactive teaching strategies on student success and satisfaction, and workplace wellness initiatives. Dr. Shackelford proudly serves as the President of Lamar’s Kappa Kappa chapter of Sigma and received the faculty Daisy award in 2022. She has over 20 years of clinical nursing experience and 16 years of experience in entrepreneurship and primary care practice as a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Lamar University in 2004, a Master’s Degree in Nursing (MSN) from The University of Texas Medical Branch in 2008, and a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) from Baylor University in 2022.





Allegra Shepherd, MS, RN

Director Traditional Prelicensure Nursing
Arizona State University

Dr. Shepherd graduated with her associate in nursing in 2011, earned her Bachelor of Science in 2014, and her Master of Science in Nursing Education in 2018, and is currently enrolled in an EdD program at ASU. As a nurse, Allegra has worked in a variety of settings, including small rural hospitals and large medical centers. Her experience includes medical-surgical, telemetry, pulmonary renal, and labor and delivery. She is an instructor for the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, teaching their Intermediate Fetal Monitoring course. After obtaining her Master of Science in Nursing Education, Allegra continued with Arizona State University as a Clinical Assistant Professor. Her experience with ASU includes teaching various experiential, clinical, and didactic courses, she is currently serving as the director of the Traditional Prelicensure Program.



Angel Smothers, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CNE

Associate Dean for Community Engagement
West Virginia University School of Nursing

Dr. Smothers was born and raised in a coal camp community in southern WV. She completed her undergraduate nursing program at Bluefield State University in Mercer County WV. She completed both a MSN and DNP both from WVU. Dr. Smothers has spent most of her career working with vulnerable populations in rural settings. She holds several national certifications including certification as a family nurse practitioner, hospice and palliative care nurse, advanced holistic nurse, certified nurse educator and faith community nurse. Dr. Smothers has taught at both the pre-licensure and post-licensure undergraduate level, as well as in the MSN and DNP program. As part of her academic appointment, Dr. Smothers holds an active practice within a faith community setting. She was appointed as the Associate Dean for Community Engagement in 2023.





Laura Taylor, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN

Professor, Program Chair
Uniformed Services University

Dr. Taylor is an esteemed nursing educator, researcher, and leader with extensive experience in academic administration and clinical education. She currently serves at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing, where she also directs the Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist Program.

Dr. Taylor holds a PhD in Nursing from The Catholic University of America and completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University. She has dedicated her career to advancing nursing education, mentoring future nurse leaders, and enhancing healthcare through evidence-based practice, transplant nursing, and innovative educational curriculum design and delivery. An award-winning author, she co-edited *Preparing for Doctoral Study in Nursing* (AJN Book of the Year, 2024). Dr. Taylor is an entrepreneur and owner of the GulDE to Degree, LLC. The GulDE Program (GP) is a decision architecture that promotes practice at the highest level of education, addresses the current national faculty shortage, and broadens the diversity and inclusiveness of the doctorally prepared nursing workforce. GP is a groundbreaking mentoring program that facilitates nurses' entry to doctoral studies by removing the barriers to entry, thereby promoting the successful completion of doctoral education.



Ladda Thiamwong, PhD, RN, FAAN, FNAP

Professor and Florida Blue Endowed Professor for Healthy Communities, University of Central Florida

Dr. Thiamwong is a Professor and Florida Blue Endowed Professor for Healthy Communities at the University of Central Florida (UCF) College of Nursing. She leads the Enhancing Mind-Body Resilience for Aging with Cultural Equity (EMBRACE) Lab at UCF, which aims to improve the well-being of older adults through innovative interventions. With over 20 years of experience in gerontological nursing, Dr. Thiamwong's research focuses on healthy aging and fall prevention among ethnically diverse older adults. Her work has led to significant advancements in technology-based fall risk assessment and intervention strategies. She has secured over \$6 million in funding, including three NIH grants. Her research has been recognized with numerous awards, such as the Luminary Award from the University of Central Florida, the William R. Jones Outstanding Mentor Award from the Florida Education Fund (FEF), and the Healthy Longevity Catalyst Award from the U.S. National Academy of Medicine (NAM). She developed several key instruments, such as the Healthy Aging Instrument, which is now available in multiple languages. In addition to her academic achievements, Dr. Thiamwong is actively involved in community service, serving on the City of Orlando Mayor's Committee on Livability and Healthy Aging.





Kathryn (Katie) Vanderzwan,
DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, CHSE
 Director of Simulation
 University of Illinois Chicago

Dr. Vanderzwan is a Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Clinical Learning Resource Center/Simulation Lab at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) College of Nursing. Katie has coordinated a variety of courses in the prelicensure nursing curriculum (BSN, MSN) over the last 12 years at UIC and is also a board-certified Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. In 2022, Katie received a Nurse Educator Fellowship from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and in 2023, she received the UIC Teaching Recognition Program (TRP), a faculty administered teaching award program. As a certified healthcare simulation educator (CHSE), Katie is an advocate for simulation-based education (SBE) across six UIC campuses. Katie is an active member of the International Nursing Association of Clinical and Simulation Learning (INACSL) and Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH). In 2021, Katie received an INACSL Research Fellowship and in 2022 she was awarded the INACSL Debra Spunt Research Grant. These awards fostered development of Katie’s research which focuses on prelicensure nursing handoff education with embedded distractors and Dr. Vanderzwan is currently co-Investigator on a multi-site study funded by the National League for Nursing (NLN).



Laura Vassel, PhD, RN, CPNP, CNE
 Assistant Director of Nursing
 Randolph-Macon College

Dr. Vassel serves as the Assistant Director of Nursing and Assistant Professor at Randolph-Macon College as part of the inaugural nursing program. She has a PhD in nursing from the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing at Mercer University. As an expert in curriculum development and teaching, she has paved the way for the first graduating class of nursing majors while embracing innovation and futuristic thinking to prepare the future nursing workforce. Dr. Vassel teaches in all levels of the bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program. Dr. Vassel serves with the Medical Reserve Corps in school-based health clinics, immunization clinics, and education within the health district. Dr. Vassel has maintained her certification as a pediatric nurse practitioner (CPNP) and a certified nurse educator (CNE). She continues to engage in continuing professional development to deliver high-quality, evidence-based care. Dr. Vassel’s scholarship has focused on student resilience, and the cognitive work of nursing. She has also received grant funding for a collaborative study on health literacy of bilingual patients in Puerto Rico. Dr. Vassel is passionate about involving students in building a lifelong career in nursing and creating a vision for the future of nursing.





Joachim Voss, PhD, RN, ACRN, FAAN

Associate Dean for Academic Programs
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Dr. Voss is nationally and internationally recognized for his cutting-edge bench-to-bedside research that has significantly advanced understanding of the mechanisms of fatigue in people with HIV and cancer. His research has contributed to the discovery of moderators and mediators in HIV and cancer-related fatigue, the identification of basic mechanisms of fatigue in skeletal muscle, CD4 cells, and fat tissue, the translation of best practices into evidence-based HIV symptom management guidelines, and evidence-based exercise recommendations for older adults living with HIV.

Dr. Voss is currently the Associate Dean for Academic Programs, and the Charlotte Peck Lienemann & Alumni Distinguished Chair in Nursing at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Nursing. In his role he oversees all educational, evaluation, and accreditation activities on the five campuses of the college that span 500 miles. Dr. Voss, in his new role, focuses on leadership development, succession planning, innovation implementation, and responding to the urgent workforce needs in his state.

