

# Advancing Academic Leadership for Deans

2024-2025 Directory

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American Association *of Colleges of Nursing*

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*The Voice of Academic Nursing*

## Advancing Academic Leadership for Deans

Led by the Center for Creative Leadership in collaboration with AACN, *Advancing Academic Leadership for Deans* is a program that provides participants with an in-depth assessment experience, a range of content and exercises related to successful leadership, and the opportunity to establish a peer network that fosters long-term partnerships and collegial support.

The purpose of the *Advancing Academic Leadership for Deans* program is to enhance the executive leadership skills of individuals who seek a high-level skill set to maximize opportunities and meet challenges. This program was developed for deans new to their role or transitioning into a dean role at a new college or university.

This 13-month program features four face-to-face meetings with work done virtually between sessions. Individuals will conduct a Learning Development project at their institution, and the top four projects will be presented at an AACN Conference.



## **Kristen Abbott-Anderson**

Dean & Professor

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

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Kristen Abbott-Anderson, Ph.D. RN is Dean and Professor at the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, USA. Dr. Abbott-Anderson earned her Ph.D. in Nursing in 2015 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her Ph.D. dissertation entailed development of a sexual concerns questionnaire for women with gynecological cancer. Dr. Abbott-Anderson's passion is for building relationships, professionally, and with clients experiencing chronic health conditions and at the end of life. As an RN for many years, Dr. Abbott-Anderson has extensive clinical practice and research experience in Alzheimer's disease and associated dementias, and women's health across the lifespan. Her research focuses on enhancing quality of life for people living with dementia (PWD) through facilitating meaning-making programs designed to enhance connectedness between the PWD and their care partner (CP). She also has a passion for care at end-of-life. Dr. Abbott-Anderson holds a certification as a nurse educator and is an End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) educator in core and geriatric curricula. Dr. Abbott-Anderson has co-authored twelve peer-reviewed articles and has contributed to more than 50 national and international scholarly presentations. In addition to these, Dr. Abbott-Anderson has mentored 19 successful student research projects presented locally, nationally, and internationally.



## Hyochol (Brian) Ahn

Dean & Professor  
University of Arizona  
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Hyochol Brian Ahn is the Dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Arizona. Previously, he served as the Associate Dean for Research and was the director for Brain Science and Symptom

Management Center at the Florida State University. Prior to that, he served as the Assistant Dean for Research and held the Isla Carroll Turner Endowed Chair in Gerontological Nursing at the University of Texas Health Science Center. Dr. Ahn's educational background encompasses diverse fields, including a BE in Electrical Engineering from the University of Seoul, South Korea, an MS in Electrical and Computer Engineering, a BSN/MSN/PhD in Nursing, and an MS in Medical Sciences, all attained from the University of Florida. His research has been continuously funded since 2011, including an NIH R01 award as PI, and has produced more than 180 peer-reviewed publications and scientific presentations related to healthcare technology, health equity, symptom science, and population health and wellness. Furthermore, he actively serves on the editorial boards of various esteemed journals, including the Asian/Pacific Island Nursing Journal (APINJ) as the Editor-In-Chief.





## **Donna Badowski**

Founding Director of Nursing and Vice Dean-School of Science,  
Engineering, and Technology  
Saint Mary's University  
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Dr. Donna Badowski started her academic path with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Early clinical experiences were primarily in maternal/child health, and home care nursing. Dedicated to becoming a nurse educator, she pursued a Master of Science in Nursing followed by the attainment of a Doctorate in Nursing Practice. During her tenure as a full-time faculty member at the College of DuPage from 2007 to 2015, Donna held leadership positions as committee chairperson and Nursing Program Coordinator. Her unwavering dedication to patient safety, teamwork, and simulation education became the foundation of her DNP capstone. Her professional journey continued to thrive as the Associate Professor and Associate Director at DePaul University in the RN to MS program. There, she played an instrumental role in program development and accreditation by authoring CCNE self-study for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Currently, she is Founding Director of Nursing and Vice Dean for the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology at St. Mary's University. She has written and submitted the nursing program proposal to the Texas Board of Nursing. Donna has numerous articles published in peer-reviewed journals and presently serves as the editor of the Innovations Center in Nursing Education Perspectives.

## **Myra Carew**



Executive Director  
Dominican University  
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Myra Carew, PhD, RN, FNP-C is the Dean for the School of Nursing and Associate Dean for the College of Health Sciences at the University of Lynchburg. Previously, Dr. Carew served as the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs at East Tennessee State University, Director of

Research at the University of North Georgia, and Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia. Her undergraduate education was at Georgia Baptist College of Nursing at Mercer University; MS FNP from North Georgia College and State University, post-Masters certificate in Nursing Education from NGCSU, and PhD from the University of Virginia. She maintains certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner and her practice focuses on underserved populations. She has taught across the curriculum including programs from BSN through PhD and mentors students and faculty to achieve their professional goals. Dr. Carew was co-editor of Practice Based Clinical Inquiry in Nursing for DNP and PhD Research: Looking Beyond Traditional Methods and remains interested in innovative ways to deliver nursing education. Her primary area of research focuses on health disparities within the social determinants of health framework. Dr. Carew participated in the AACN Leadership for Academic Programs Fellowship in 2018. She was the PI of HRSA training grants.



## Chris Coleman

Dean & Professor  
Oakland University  
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Christopher Lance Coleman, PhD, MS, MPH, FAAN, PMHCNS began his tenure as Dean & Professor, May 2023. Prior to this role he was the Mark & Maureen Miller Head & Professor at Purdue University School of Nursing, West Lafayette, and served as Associate Dean & Professor at the Indiana University School of Nursing, Fort Wayne Campus (IUFW) and as Department Chair and Professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, College of Nursing Prior. During his tenure at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing, Dr. Coleman was Director of the Health Equity Collaborative, and the Fagin Term Associate Professor, served as Chair of the Faculty Senate, and Chair of the Biomedical IRB Panel, and the MPH Admissions Committee in the Penn School of Medicine. Additionally, he served as the Co-Director of the former Center of Health Equity Research Center School of Nursing for 13 years. Dr. Coleman brings extensive experience serving in key leadership roles in healthcare settings. Dr. Coleman's clinical work has included mental health, HIV/AIDS and hospital administration in addition to working in private practice as a mental health clinician. Additionally, Dr. Coleman has extensive experience in the non-profit arena establishing services for persons living with HIV/AIDS.



## **Shawn Collins**

Dean

Loma Linda University

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Dr. Collins has lectured nationally and internationally on continuing education of nurse anesthetists in developing countries, leadership, evidence-based practice, and emotional intelligence. His DNP is from Rush University in Chicago and his PhD is in Leadership from Andrews University. Dr. Collins serves as chair of the nurse anesthesia steering committee for Health Volunteers Overseas, on the Editorial Committee of the AANA Journal, the administrative committee for Adventist

Health International, the AANA Continuing Education Committee, and has served on the NBCRNA CPC and NCE Committees. Dr. Collins has published over 30 peer-reviewed articles and is first author of a chapter on Hepatobiliary anesthesia and a chapter on Nurse Anesthesia Program Admissions. He has a passion for service-learning mission trips in developing countries. Dr. Collins previously served for 13 years as a professor of nursing and held numerous leadership roles at Western Carolina University in Asheville, NC. There, he was the recipient of several awards for teaching and mentoring. He joined Loma Linda University School of Nursing in 2019 as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Graduate Programs. Since 2023 he has served as Dean in the School of Nursing and Vice President of LLUHS Nursing Education in Loma Linda, California.





## **Cameron Duncan**

Dean  
Florida Atlantic University  
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Dr. Cameron Duncan, Ph.D., DNP, APRN, FNP-C, PMHNP-BC, CNE is a dually-certified nurse practitioner (NP), prepared as both a Family NP and a Psychiatric Mental Health NP. He is also a Certified Nurse Educator and currently serves as the Interim Dean of Nursing and Associate Professor at the University of Nevada, Reno. For four years he served as the Vice President for the

Nevada Advanced Practice Nurses Association, where he has led the charge for NPs in the state in attaining pay parity under the state Medicaid program and secured universal signature authority for all APRNs in the state. He was recently inducted as a Fellow for the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), and was the recipient of the prestigious AANP State Award of Excellence for Nevada in 2021. He was also named a Stellar Nurse in 2020, received the 50 under 50 award from the in 2019, 2020, 2022 and 2023, and was nominated as the Dean or Director of the year by the Nevada Nurses Foundation in 2023.



## **Shakira Henderson**

Dean

University of Florida

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Dr. Shakira Henderson is a dedicated healthcare leader and advocate. With a passion for creating positive change, she has worked tirelessly for the past two decades to promote

and implement sustainable integration of clinical research and clinical operations with an equity lens within healthcare systems. Dr. Henderson holds dual doctoral degrees, PhD and DNP, and master's degrees in business, public health, anatomical sciences, and advanced nursing practice with a sub-specialization in nursing education. She also holds undergraduate degrees in biological sciences and chemistry with a minor in microbiology and nursing. Dr. Henderson serves on the national board for the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses and has recently served as the 2023 President. She was elected to the North Carolina Board of Nursing in 2022. Dr. Henderson has over 50 honors and awards to date, spanning the local, regional, national, and international levels. The University of Miami School of Nursing will honor her as the 2023 Alumna of Distinction. Dr. Henderson will be the Dean of the University of Florida (UF) College of Nursing and UF Health System Chief Nurse Executive. She loves traveling with her husband and sound sleep in her spare time!



## **Paula Julian**

Associate Dean/ Executive Director of Nursing  
University of Arkansas-Fort Smith  
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Dr. Paula Julian is the Associate Dean for the College of Health, Education, and Human Sciences as well as the Executive Director of the Carolyn McKelvey Moore School of Nursing at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. Her research interests include cultural awareness and competence amongst nurse educators and issues affecting veterans and pediatric populations. Dr. Julian is a licensed registered nurse in the state of Arkansas. She also holds certifications as an advanced practice registered nurse and a pediatric nurse. She holds active memberships in various nursing organizations. She has dedicated most of her career of more than 20 years to nursing education and has served the profession in various roles. In 2021 Dr. Julian received a grant from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation to initiate a White Coat Ceremony for nursing students and held the inaugural ceremony that same year. In 2022 the Carolyn McKelvey Moore School of Nursing was the recipient of a \$9.9 million grant to expand the nursing program.



## **Tera Kirkman**

Dean & Professor  
University of North Alabama  
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Dr. Tera Kirkman is the dean and professor of nursing at the University of North Alabama (UNA). Dr. Kirkman is completing her eighteenth year at the University, where she has served as undergraduate department chair and associate dean. Before her employment at UNA, she worked as a registered nurse, hospital supervisor, and nurse manager at Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital in Florence, Alabama; Dr. Kirkman was also employed as a nurse liaison and case manager at J.W. Sommer Rehab at Shoals Hospital in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. She completed her bachelor of science in nursing degree at UNA. In 2003, she completed her master of science in nursing administration at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and later completed her doctorate at the University of Alabama in 2011. Some of Dr. Kirkman's most noteworthy authored publications include High Fidelity Simulation Effectiveness in Nursing Students' Transfer of Learning, Strategies for Implementing a Multiple Patient Simulation, and Strategies for Promoting Student Retention for Diverse Populations. From 2012 to 2016, she served as co-writer and program director for the \$2.1 million HRSA grant titled Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS). From 2016 to 2020, she was co-writer and co-director of the \$2.4 million SDS HRSA grant.



## **Anmy Mayfield**

Vice President & Dean  
Western Governors University  
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Dr. Mayfield currently at Western Governors University, she was previously at Rocky Mountain University where she was founding Director of Clinical Education and faculty for nurse practitioner programs, and at the University of Utah where she was the Community Engaged Learning Program Coordinator for their College of Nursing. Her dissertation project developed a mobile application to improve self-management of health screening schedules and medical information. She has a DNP and a post-graduate certificate in Learning Design in Healthcare Education. Dr. Mayfield was selected as a Community Engaged Scholar at the University of Utah and as a Research Scholar at the Huntsman Cancer Institute. She is also a board-certified family nurse practitioner and maintains her practice as an intensive primary care provider at a community clinic for uninsured, low-income patients. Dr. Mayfield has served on different boards and councils, and currently serves on the Utah Nurses Association Board and the Utah Organization of Nurse Leaders Academic Leadership Committee. She loves spending time with her family including her three sons. Dr. Mayfield enjoys traveling and learning about different communities, and has participated in medical missions abroad.





## **Joseph Tacy**

Director

Lamar University

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Dr. Joseph W. Tacy is the Director of the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing at Lamar University. Dr. Tacy received his PhD in Nursing, from The University of Texas at Tyler, an MSN in Nursing Education from James Madison University, his Bachelor's Degree Regents Studies from WVU, and an Associate in Nursing from Davis and Elkins College. Dr. Tacy has taught in undergraduate and graduate programs. Dr. Tacy has multiple years of telemetry medical-surgical, orthopedic, and administrative experience that he uses to provide

knowledge to his school. Dr. Tacy has taught contemporary issues, informatics, health assessment, health policy, and clinical applications. Dr. Tacy has experience with administrative leadership, nurse administration, technology, and informatics. Dr. Tacy previously served as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. In his new role, Dr. Tacy will create a healthy work environment by embracing a culture of transparency and shared governance, assuring the well-being through the allocation of resources to support the School, College, and University. Dr. Tacy maintains a positive and enthusiastic approach to nursing education; his students enjoy his willingness to go beyond the duty of a faculty member and leader in nursing.



## Jane Tang

Dean & Professor  
Gwynedd Mercy University  
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Dr. Tang is the Dean and Professor of the Frances M. Maguire School of Nursing and Health Professions at Gwynedd Mercy University. With over 20 years of nursing experience, she has served as a clinician, educator, researcher, and administrator. Dr. Tang received her BSN from Midland Lutheran College and her MSN and PhD from the University of Iowa. She is a fellow of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing

Leadership for Academic Nursing Program (LANP) and holds certification as an ANCC Board Certified Nurse Executive. Before joining Gwynedd Mercy University, Dr. Tang was the Chair and Professor of the Division of Nursing at Immaculata University. She played a key role in developing several nursing programs and transforming its BSN program, among other achievements. Actively engaged in the community and various professional committees, she serves on the Board of Directors of the Chester County Economic Development Council (CCEDC) and contributes as an editorial member of the Asian Nursing Research Journal. Dr. Tang has successfully obtained extramural funding and maintained a record of publications. Her research and scholarship primarily focus on Evidence-Based Practice and Nursing Services Administration, exploring areas such as the nursing workforce, job satisfaction, nurse retention, and turnover.



## **Tony Umadhay**

Dean & Professor  
Barry University  
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Dr. Tony Umadhay has over thirty years of experience as a clinician, hospital administrator, and educator. Migrating from the Philippines, he sought opportunities as a Registered Nurse in the United States to better support his family. He obtained his BSN from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines; his MSN in Anesthesiology at Florida

International University; and his PhD in Nursing at Barry University. He joined Barry University as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologist (CRNA) faculty and was later promoted to program director. He also served as associate dean of academic affairs for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences before being named the Dean of the School of Nursing. Dr. Umadhay is a fellow of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (FAANA). As a professor, he teaches across disciplines, bringing his expertise to a wide range of healthcare students. He is recognized nationally as a healthcare leader as evidenced by grant awards, elections, appointments by nursing professional groups, and distinguished achievement honors. Dr. Umadhay has published in peer-reviewed journals and textbooks, presented at regional, national, and international meetings, and is dedicated to advancing social justice and health equity through community service, mission work, and philanthropy.



## **Diane Uzarski**

Dean

Saint Anselm College

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Dean Uzarski's healthcare career in a variety of private, public and academic settings spans more than 35 years. A highly regarded healthcare leader formerly at Duke University, Dr. Uzarski has brought her diverse nursing career and experiences in clinical and translational research and academic healthcare leadership to this important role. During her six-year tenure serving as chief of staff in the Dean's Office at Duke

University School of Nursing, she performed executive-level initiatives on behalf of the dean, including leading the implementation of the school's five-year strategic plan and the leadership of multiple mission-driven strategic initiatives. Her publications include topics such as biomarker research development, strategic planning and racial justice planning. She is currently an adjunct professor teaching in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at Duke University, and currently serves as a member of the Duke Catholic Center Board of Advisors, chairing the Strategic Plan Committee. Dean Uzarski earned her Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration from Iona College; a Masters of Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley; and a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Duke University. In her spare time, she enjoys travel, gardening and outdoor activities.



## Jorge Valdes

Dean

Florida International University

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Dr. Jorge A. Valdés has been Acting Dean of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences at FIU since May 2023. Dr. Valdés oversees over 314 full-time and part-time faculty and staff. He is a distinguished leader and author with a prolific career as a clinical nurse anesthetist spanning over twenty-two years. As an educator, he has advocated for diversity and inclusion in higher education and nursing, with over thirteen years of experience serving in numerous leadership roles at academic institutions across South Florida. He has authored various book chapters and publications on diversity and received over 475K in funded training grants to train CRNAs to work in underserved communities. He has advocated for APRN independent practice, appearing before the Florida State House of Representatives as an expert clinician in healthcare issues. As acting Dean, Dr. Valdes has increased the NCLEX first pass rate, doubled undergraduate nursing enrollment, and received over 2 million dollars in college endowment, scholarships, and state funding for nursing. Dr. Valdés an esteemed Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology and a distinguished member of the Miami-Dade College Alumni Hall of Fame for his numerous contributions to the South Florida community





## **Cindy Weston**

Founding Dean & Professor  
University of North Texas Health Science Center  
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In May 2023, Dr. Cindy Weston was named founding dean of The University of North Texas Health Science Center College of Nursing at Fort Worth. Before joining HSC, Weston served as associate dean for clinical and outreach affairs and associate professor at the Texas A&M School of Nursing. She has been a co-recipient of more than \$20 million in funding to implement nurse-managed care delivery models, innovative simulation, integrated behavioral health care models and improving health outcomes in vulnerable populations. Her research focused on cardiovascular disease, health and wellness, innovative pedagogy in nursing curriculum, access to health care in vulnerable populations, patient safety and interprofessional education. Weston earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from The University of Texas Medical Branch, a Master of Science in Nursing from UT Health Houston and a Doctor of Nursing Practice from UT Health San Antonio.



## **Andrew Wolf**

Dean

St. Joseph's Health Formerly Marymount University

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Recognized as a transformative leader in nursing education, Andrew Wolf has advanced the field by leveraging technology, advocating for inclusive pedagogy, and promoting data-driven teaching and learning improvements. He serves as Director of the Malek School of Nursing Professions and Chief Nursing Officer at Marymount University. In this role, he leads

high-functioning cross-functional teams to optimize teaching and learning, marketing, admissions, student affairs, simulation, clinical placement, and information technology for student success. Previously, as Assistant Dean for Online Education at St. John Fisher University, Dr. Wolf led one of the nation's first fully online Doctor of Pharmacy programs. At the University of Rochester School of Nursing, he launched the Education Innovation Team, guided accreditation processes, spearheaded a transition to competency-based education, and led initiatives to enhance diversity and equity in admissions. His experience includes developing multiple online and hybrid nursing programs and co-leading strategic planning processes. An Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Dr. Wolf maintains an active clinical practice as a surgical hospitalist and has previously worked in critical care and oncology. He holds a Bachelor of Nursing from Johns Hopkins University and a Master's and Doctorate of Education from the University of Rochester.