

AACN Narrative

Hofstra University (HU) and Northwell Health (NH) are the academic and practice partners (APP) respectively in the establishment, governance, and operation of the Hofstra Northwell School of Nursing (SON) & Physician Assistant (PA) Studies. The establishment of the partnership in 2015, was in response to the need to improve and expand access to care. The nursing program developed a curricular model that enhances nurse practitioner (NP) practice with sensitivity, inclusivity and ability to meet the multiple needs of diverse and underserved populations across the lifespan. The design of the APP is in alignment with the recommendations outlined in the *Advancing Healthcare Transformation: A New Era for Academic Nursing*, published by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2016), and the AACN-AONE Taskforce on Academic Practice Partnerships (2012).

NH is the largest provider of health care services in the New York metropolitan region and one of the largest healthcare systems in the nation. NH is comprised of 23 hospitals, three long-term care facilities, a major research center (The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research), the area's major home-care, hospice and ambulance providers, and a network of over 550 ambulatory sites. Given the location of the NH's facilities, its patient base comes from a broad geographic region, which encompasses urban to suburban landscapes and represents a full spectrum of racial, cultural, and socioeconomic diversity. NH has more than 3,000 full-time and approximately 8,000 community physicians on its medical staff, employs more than 15,000 registered professional nurses, including over 800 NPs, and has a total workforce of more than 62,000. It is the largest health care provider and largest private employer in New York State. As an academic partner, NH provides a variety of guaranteed diverse clinical experiences for the NP students exposing the student and faculty body to diverse populations in underserved areas. NH's nursing workforce serve as faculty preceptors and mentors to over 4,200 nursing students annually, and offer on-site classes for bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree nursing students.

The SON, like Hofstra University at large, is devoted to recruiting and retaining a highly qualified and diverse academic community of students and faculty. The shared assets are inclusive of governance, interprofessional faculty, and extensive clinical, academic and research resources. An innovative curricular design reflects an adult learning approach that fosters innovative learning approaches using an interprofessional framework and advanced technology. All faculty are committed to excellence in teaching, scholarly research, evidence-based clinical practice and service. The University emphasizes and supports the creation and synthesis of knowledge as well as its dissemination. The best education for students is one informed by their professors' scholarly and professional pursuits and accomplishments.

Through NH's clinical continuum of care and specialized learning programs of the Center for Learning and Innovation (CLI), Patient Safety Institute (PSI), Clinical Skills Center (CSC), Bioskills Education Center, and Institute for Nursing, this unique APP ensures that the SON will have exceptional guaranteed clinical placement opportunities, research opportunities, opportunities for faculty to practice, and substantial academic infrastructure. The integrated governance model of the SON has an organizational structure, whereby leadership of the school hold executive positions in each entity. Dr. Kathleen Gallo serves as both the Chief Learning Officer and Executive Vice President of NH since 2002 and the founding Dean of the SON at HU in 2015. Dr. Renee McLeod serves as both the Director of Medical Ethics at NH and is the Vice Dean of the SON. In March 2020, HU leadership recognizing the surge of the global pandemic,

beseached Dean Gallo to organizationally assess and evaluate readiness for emergency response on the campus. Subsequently, Dean Gallo was appointed to the Presidential Task Force for Reopening. Dean Gallo assumed leadership of the Student Health Services (SHS). Under Dean Gallo's dual executive leadership role of both HU and NH, the clinical operation team for ambulatory services and pharmaceutical services provided regulatory oversight and organizational assessment of SHS. In, May 2020, the administrative and fiscal operations of the nurse practitioner led SHS became an integrative component of the SON. Northwell Health recommendations were incorporated to provide regulatory and consultative oversight and services. Dr. Gallo spearheaded priority efforts to address the immediate Covid-19 pandemic needs including minimizing the spread of COVID-19 infections, organized emergent response for isolation, quarantine, testing and surveillance. Crucial to maintaining the health and safety of the campus, Dean Gallo created seamless updated communication and education regarding public health guidelines to senior leadership, HU faculty, students and staff. This governance academic practice partnership (APP) model created and facilitated an effective and contemporary emergent pandemic response. Utilizing the resources of NH, the largest health system in NYS, NH was able to seamlessly care for the most number of COVID-19 patients in the country while supporting the HU mission to educate the next generation of nurses. NH provided COVID-19 testing resources and clinical placements to HU. Faculty were able to deliver virtual content to NP learners while they were added to NH hospital personnel to deliver immediate care for COVID-19 patients.

Without the existence of this APP, comprehensive community and stakeholder outreach to address emergency and contingency preparedness to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the learning environment as well as campus health and safety could not have occurred. The collaboration provided a platform whereby students graduated with their necessary clinical hours, faculty practiced to the height of their scope of practice during the pandemic and faculty research was maintained. Students, staff and faculty resilience were demonstrated through full retention and curricular academic progression. Dissemination of the APP activities and outcomes were reported through joint publications and presentations. Dean Gallo continues to communicate and disseminate outcome measures in regards to COVID testing and vaccination rates to both institutions in an ongoing basis.