



Outstanding PRACTITIONERS



Madeline Michel, DNP, APRN, GNP-BC, FNP-BC, has served as a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner at the College's Louis and Anne Memory and Wellness Center (MWC) since 2013, providing comprehensive cognitive evaluations and supportive services to older adults and their caregivers. She also facilitates various clinical practicum experiences at the MWC for RN-BSN students, graduate and post-graduate students from FAU's College of Nursing and College of Medicine.

Her inspiration to become a nurse stemmed from her interactions with different professionals while working as a language interpreter for 10 years. "I always enjoyed working with people and contributing to a better outcome. During my work as an interpreter, nurses made the biggest impact on me."

For the past seven years, she has answered the call to care through teaching and practice, by undertaking various activities with vulnerable Haitian older adults, and providing preceptorship and clinical experiences for students. "This helps in improving the Haitian older adults' quality of life, and bridges the gap between classroom learning and clinical nursing to prepare students for the role of advanced practice nurse," said Michel.

A native of Haiti, completing her Doctorate of Nursing Practice in 2019 enabled her to focus on her passion, the wellness of older adults, particularly those in the Haitian community, and enhancing her expertise in the care of individuals with cognitive impairments such as Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Michel has spearheaded activities to prevent social isolation in this population through her work at the MWC. ■



Karen Wisdom-Chambers, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, Assistant Professor and three-time alumna of the College, teaches nurse practitioner (NP) and doctoral (DNP) students. Wisdom-Chambers knew from the age of nine she wanted to become a nurse. As a teenage mom in New York, she was classified as the working poor. Although she worked two jobs, she could not afford health insurance. She became an LPN to secure her future and later became an RN. Wisdom-Chambers sympathizes with those who do not have access to healthcare and is passionate about serving uninsured, underserved, and under-resourced patients through community health centers. She is equally as passionate about helping students understand the importance of community health.

In her role, Wisdom-Chambers regularly sees how health is neglected due to a lack of access to care. "Some haven't seen a provider in 10 years because they have no insurance. Chronic illnesses affect people of color the most," she said. "I really feel it's my duty to be concerned with the health disparities of black people." She and her students are answering the call to care through practice at both locations of the FAU Community Health Center. While many patients of the center have jobs, they lack access to healthcare. "With the help of our students, we can do so much in the community, such as health education, teaching good nutrition and how to manage diabetes. This is my calling – to help our students help others to rise to the level they deserve." ■