



EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICE:

Answering the Call to *Care*

FAU's College of Nursing is a vital part of the community – offering quality, accessible health care to many, including the most vulnerable populations in the region through its centers – the FAU Community Health Center (CHC) and the Louis and Anne Green Memory & Wellness Center (MWC).

The **Community Health Center** delivery of health care services is inspired by the College of Nursing's philosophy of caring that is rooted in compassion, competence, conscious, and commitment to health equity. The CHC has a longstanding site in the Westgate neighborhood in West Palm Beach. In April 2020, in partnership with the Northwest Community Health Alliance, the College of Nursing opened the UB Kinsey site, located in the historic Northwest neighborhood of West Palm Beach, Florida, an area of the city that has the highest level of minority population and poverty.

“Almost one quarter of the population in this community is uninsured and often seeks care in emergency rooms because

they do not have an alternative,” said Dr. Karethy Edwards, Professor and Associate Dean of Academic Programs. “We want our FAU health centers to be their medical home for primary and behavioral health care. Many of the residents have rates of uncontrolled high blood pressure, diabetes, and asthma, placing them at much greater risk of dying from COVID-19. They also suffer from depression and anxiety disorders, and have low levels of health literacy.”

The Community Health Centers are ensuring the most medically-needy populations receive the healthcare they need. Studies show minority and low-income populations carry a higher burden of chronic diseases and mortality. Services at both the Community Health Center at Westgate and UB Kinsey include primary care, pediatric care, immunizations, health examinations, chronic disease management and treatment, diabetes management and education, mental health assessments, medication management, and behavioral interventions focused on restoration of function and quality of life. Patients learn behavior strategies to help them adhere to