



EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION: Answering the Call to *Care*



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THE NURSE AND THE MIDWIFE,
NURSES ARE THE MOST TRUSTED
OF ALL PROFESSIONS.

Dr. Karethy Edwards
Associate Dean for Academic Programs

Florida Atlantic University's Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing offers bachelor's, master's, DNP and PhD degree programs. Collectively, the programs are inspired by the College of Nursing's philosophy grounded in caring. The College makes an intentional commitment to study caring science and live caring in all its activities. This commitment to caring science moves the College toward excellence. Caring is also the blueprint leading the College to respond to calls for nursing care. Elements of Sister Simone Roach's six components of caring — compassion, competence, conscious, confidence, comportment and commitment — are embedded in all course objectives. As an exemplar of compassion, faculty ask students to attempt to experience what the patient, family, or community is experiencing. Likewise, faculty attempt to experience what the student is experiencing. This allows students and faculty to focus on the essence of what really matters.

The College's philosophy grounded in caring reaps enormous accomplishments. Some of these accomplishments are evident in the diversity of the graduates in each program. Blacks and Hispanic persons represent almost 50 percent of graduates from all degree programs. The College's MSN and DNP programs rank in the top 5 percent in the nation. The BSN NCLEX pass rates for first-time test takers are in the top 1 percent in the nation. Last year, graduates of the adult/gerontological nurse practitioner concentration achieved a 100 percent pass rate on their certification exam.

In 2020, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked FAU's College of Nursing #7 for its online MSN degree program. This ranking was achieved as a result of outstanding faculty. Several faculty are fellows of the American Academy of Nursing and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, and two faculty are fellows of the National Academies of Practice. Equally important, 100 percent of graduate faculty hold doctorate degrees in nursing or related health fields. The College also has an excellent eLearning department with highly qualified instructional designers who provide over 80 hours of training to faculty and assist faculty with online course delivery.

"As we celebrate the year of the Nurse and the Midwife, nurses are the most trusted of all professions," said Dr. Karethy Edwards, Associate Dean for Academic Programs. "I believe this means we continue to answer calls for care, and we focus on what matters to patients, families, communities, but also society."

As our nation and world becomes more complex, nursing education takes a leading role in addressing these complexities and challenges. One of the biggest challenges that nursing education faces is the aging of the current nursing population and presents an increasing demand for caring nurses. In the next few years, Florida will need almost 25,000 new nurses. To answer this call, the College created a part-time track in its BSN program for working professionals who have college degrees in another discipline. This track, offered on weekends, one evening weekly with live streaming and online delivery, meets the scheduling and learning needs of working professionals. The diverse backgrounds of these students will enhance their contributions to nursing and increase the availability of highly qualified caring nurses.

FAU's College of Nursing, through its leading faculty and top-rated degree programs, is answering the call to care – preparing the next generation of nurses who will serve the community. ■