



## A *Message* from the Dean

THIS YEAR, WE HAVE SEEN  
JUST HOW PROFOUNDLY  
IMPORTANT NURSES ARE TO  
OUR SOCIETY AND WORLD.

**Florence Nightingale** personifies the theme of this year's magazine – Answering the Call to Care. The “Lady with the Lamp” is recognized worldwide for professionalizing nursing roles and highlighting both the science and art of nursing. The year 2020 marks the 200th anniversary of Nightingale's birth and was designated the “International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife” by the World Health Organization for the vital role nurses play in providing health services.

This year, we have seen just how profoundly important nurses are to our society and world. Shortly after 2020 began, we started to witness the impact of COVID-19 on our country and in our communities. From emergency rooms to health clinics, nurses – including our own students and alumni – are on the frontlines.

Dealing with the dynamic and fluid environment that is life in a world with COVID-19, I am very thankful to our faculty, staff and students who stepped up to the challenge in a variety of ways. Faculty and staff were able to swiftly move classes and operations online, and provide a continuity of excellent education for our students. Our students pivoted to online learning, and were able to complete in-patient and out-patient clinicals in a variety of settings.

To assist in the efforts needed locally and nationally to combat COVID-19, College of Nursing faculty developed and offered a fully-online course, “Introduction to Public Health: Coronavirus, Contact Tracing, and Risk Reduction.” The Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center transitioned caregiver support groups online, via telephone or telehealth. To address the needs of vulnerable populations, including individuals without homes, the FAU Community Health Center provided telehealth appointments and more than 2,000 masks. This spirit of providing care was also exhibited by the College's advisory board, which offered support to obtain masks for students, health centers and the community, and also helped to raise funds for scholarships for students in need.

Ongoing community education has been key. We are grateful to our community partners, such as Cross Country Healthcare, who partnered with the College in offering monthly webinars that tackle important topics, such as mental health during COVID-19, diversity, lessons learned on the front lines, and many more.

Although we have learned a great deal since those early days of COVID-19, much remains to be discovered about the disease and its effects. Even with the uncertainty about the future and many challenges on the path forward, I am heartened to know that everyone involved with the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing is passionate about the education of nurses, and their role in the delivery of quality and compassionate health services.

Together, we answer the call to care.

With gratitude,

Safiya George, PhD, APRN-BC, FAANP  
Dean and Professor