



SECOND-DEGREE PROGRAM HELPS PROFESSIONALS TRANSITION TO NURSING

Due to a critical nursing shortage, FAU's College of Nursing launched an innovative new second-degree part-time track in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at FAU's Davie campus. The program is designed to prepare working professionals with a bachelor's degree or higher in another discipline to become professional nurses who are eligible for licensure as a registered nurse. It is a two-year program that enrolls students every Fall and Spring semester. The College will graduate its first cohort in August 2021.

Careers and experiences originally unrelated to nursing have helped these students develop real-world skills that translate well to the nursing profession. Soft skills that propel individuals to success in other fields, such as strong communication skills, displaying care and compassion, being observant, and more, provide a foundation for success for students seeking to embark on a second career in nursing. The following three students in the program have varied education and expertise and are well on their way to a nursing career.

FAU'S COLLEGE OF NURSING IS EMPOWERING WORKING PROFESSIONALS TO ANSWER THE CALL TO CARE.

FAU Student Nurses Association LEADS THE WAY

Congratulations to FAU's Student Nurses Association (SNA), which was named the 2020 National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) Program Award winner. SNA also received the 2019-20 Stellar School Chapter Recognition and the Breakthrough to Nursing Award. Alaiya Dewji was named the Core Values Award Winner for best exemplifying the core values and ethics of NSNA.

SNA also received recognition at the Florida Student Nurses Association (FSNA) conference. Three students were elected to



Pablo Caceido is working as an exercise physiologist and cardiac monitor technician in cardiac rehabilitation. This role has given him a solid clinical foundation and helped him develop the skills needed to work with a high-risk patient population. "It has given me exposure to different levels of care and the healthcare professionals at each of those levels," he said.



Marcco Petit-Bien teaches biology in the Palm Beach County School District. He feels a great sense of fulfillment educating and mentoring young adults as they move forward in their journey. As an educator, he is observant, naturally inquisitive and enjoys learning, traits that lend themselves to success as a future nurse.



Kenisha Wilcox works as a volunteer supervisor for the Guardian Ad Litem Program for the 11th Judicial Circuit Court of Miami-Dade County. Her current career in social work has helped her develop patience, compassion and understanding, and skills in communication, time management and needs assessment. "It is an experience that is fulfilling and rewarding. This role has more than prepared me for the role of a nurse in any capacity."

Students obtain vital clinical nursing skills and knowledge in hands-on, custom lab spaces on campus. Simulation and laboratory spaces for the second-degree program were expanded in March 2020 to provide a safe clinical learning environment for students. Each simulation room and the nursing practice lab is outfitted with the same medical equipment and furnishings found in a clinical environment, and practice labs also feature medication carts and a crash cart for simulating emergencies.

The facilities' purposes are to promote patient safety and prepare students for real-world practice in a rapidly evolving and complex health care

system. Through simulation, students learn to critically think in complex situations, communicate effectively with interdisciplinary healthcare teams, patients and family members, and manage rapidly changing situations in real-time, providing students with a safe practical experience that creates less anxiety and opportunities for feedback from faculty.

FAU's College of Nursing is empowering working professionals to answer the call to care. Students who bravely pursue a second career in nursing are provided state-of-the-art facilities and innovative instruction to help them become the next generation of dedicated nurses. ■

FSNA statewide offices: Jessica Yoder as First Vice President, Nicole Petro as Treasurer, and Hannah Wexler as Region 5 Director. Also, Chapter President Tatiana Cavarrette won an FNSA scholarship. FAU's SNA chapter also won the Community Health Outreach Award, Legislative Advocacy Award, Breakthrough to Nursing Award, Communications Award, and, for the fourth year in a row, FAU SNA was named the Diamond Chapter for Florida. ■