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SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE



Getting to Know Dean Judy Liesveld

An accomplished teacher, scholar and practitioner with clinical experience in pediatric primary care, Judy Liesveld, PhD, RN, PPCNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, joined SIUE as dean of the School of Nursing in July 2022.

Tell us about your background and why you chose SIUE.

My background as a nurse is mainly in public health and working as a pediatric nurse practitioner in a small primary care clinic in Gallup, New Mexico. I received my doctorate from the University of New Mexico (UNM) and was hired, then, as faculty. I was at UNM for 13 years and was most recently an associate dean. I felt ready for the next step and saw the position for dean open at SIUE.

When I interviewed, I was impressed with the friendliness and expertise of the faculty and staff and their dedication to the School of Nursing. I liked the variety of nursing programs offered and that the School had a nurse managed clinic working with underserved individuals. I was also struck by the University's and the School's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion as I am very interested in expanding the diversity of the nursing workforce. Also, who cannot be enchanted by the beauty of this campus?

What are your main priorities as dean?

My priorities include continued excellence and innovation in education. What can we do differently or better to educate our students for a lifelong commitment to the nursing profession and to prepare them for nursing practice, research/scholarship and leadership in the healthcare arena? I want to honor diversity in our student population and provide avenues for success and achievement. I also want to attract and retain diverse faculty and staff to provide the richest classroom and clinical experiences for our students.

What are you most excited about moving forward?

I have discovered the most wonderful nursing faculty, staff and students here. I am excited about the creative opportunities that exist to attract, educate and graduate the best nurses and practitioners who provide stellar patient and community care and who are ready to be leaders in impacting positive change for healthcare.

Greetings, SIUE School of Nursing alumni and friends!

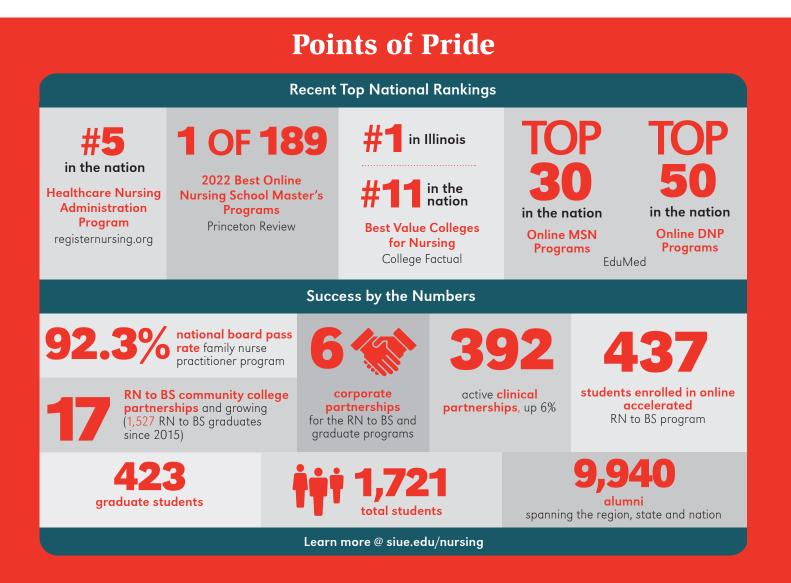


It is my honor to serve as the 10th Chancellor at SIUE. The University is the top producer of bachelor's degrees in the region, powering today's workforce. My bold ambition is that SIUE be first and best at providing high-quality, affordable degree opportunities for students from all backgrounds.

I applaud the continued success of the School of Nursing's students, faculty and staff. You can read more about their achievements, such as the Healthcare and Nursing Administration program being ranked 5th, in the "Top National Rankings" list included below. SIUE is also setting new standards for alumni engagement and community partnerships. On page 5 of this report, you will read about the inaugural Nurse Anesthesia Networking Night and Fundraiser, a sold-out event that raised funds to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for the program's simulation lab. The opportunity to practice with this high-tech equipment will help to ensure SIUE graduates enter the profession having mastered the necessary clinical skills.

This is a special season for SIUE. It is clear to me there is a high degree of readiness to take a significant step forward as an institution. I invite you to join us as we define SIUE's future. Learn more about our vision and action plan at siue.edu/strategic-plan.





School Implements Holistic Admissions Process

The School of Nursing has long been committed to diversity to both enhance learning and produce a more diverse nursing workforce. Pathway programs to recruit and retain underrepresented minority (URM) students have been in place for 35 years.

Through a \$97,000 grant from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the School is now developing a missionaligned admissions process that looks at an applicant as a whole, taking into consideration experiences and attributes in addition to academic metrics such as GPA and standardized exam scores.

"This will lead to a more equitable admission process that broadens opportunities for potential students to be evaluated beyond GPA," said Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) Amelia Perez, PhD, RN, associate professor and chair of the Department of Family Health and Community Health Nursing.

To begin the process, Co-PI Jerrica Ampadu, PhD, RN, associate professor, coordinator for diversity, and director of the WE CARE Clinic on the East St. Louis Wyvetter H. Younge Higher Education Campus, conducted a retrospective study of 660 graduates of SIUE's nursing program to identify predictors of successful first-time pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). Her team evaluated 41 predictors, including prerequisite grades, nursing grades and demographic data.

Of those, the most compelling predictors correlated to success in specific nursing courses rather than current admission criteria. Students were 4.5 times more likely to pass the NCLEX on the first attempt if they received a higher grade in the foundations course. They were 3.9 times more likely to pass on the first attempt if they had a higher grade in mental health courses.

The next step was to develop a process and instruments to implement holistic admissions, employing a toolkit from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and evaluating strategies reported in the literature and from other nursing schools.

"We then established outcome measures, including the admission, retention and graduation of URM students, as well as ways to measure their performance within the nursing program," said Co-PI Ann Popkess, PhD, RN, assistant dean of undergraduate programs.

"Holistic admission is an effective strategy in diversifying the nursing workforce," Popkess added. "This can additionally address disparities in healthcare access, given that a high percentage of graduates return to provide care in their communities."

Innovative Program Prepares the Next Generation of Nurse Educators

As the average age of nursing faculty across the country continues to rise and current instructors reach retirement age, there is an ever-increasing demand for nurse educators. The School of Nursing's online nurse educator master's program provides a strong foundation for nurse educators in both academic and acute care settings by harnessing the latest technology, including artificial intelligence.

"One of the exciting features of the nurse educator program is the use of artificial intelligence as an active learning strategy," said Kay Gaehle, PhD, program coordinator. "The objective of this experience is for students to practice communication skills when faced with challenging situations that are realistic to what an educator may encounter."

Each simulation begins with a student receiving a challenging scenario relevant to nursing education, such as meeting with a student who is failing a course or talking with a student who needs to improve their clinical practice performance. The nurse educator student will then interact in real-time with an avatar who plays the part of the learner. The outcome of the simulation is based solely on how the student interacts with the avatar.

"The objective of this experience is for students to practice communication skills when faced with challenging situations that are realistic to what an educator may encounter." *Kay Gaehle, PhD Coordinator, Nurse Educator Program*

"Group debriefing after the interactions occur provides an opportunity to discuss what works and what did not work so well during the interactions," explained Gaehle. "Students have responded that the interaction feels real and provides an opportunity to experience a realistic situation in a safe learning environment."



The Princeton Review Tabs School of Nursing Among Nation's Best

The Princeton Review included the School of Nursing on its Best Online Nursing School Master's Programs for 2022 list, marking the first time the School has been included. The School offers online master's degrees through its nurse educator program and healthcare and nursing administration (HCNA) program.

"The nurse educator program provides a challenging sequence of courses to assure that graduates are prepared to be successful in an initial role in academic or hospital-based education," said Kay Gaehle, PhD, program coordinator.

"While the HCNA courses are online, we still include practicum hours where students spend time with nursing leaders in hospital and clinic settings," said Andrew Griffin, PhD, assistant dean for graduate programs. "This time proves to be extremely valuable to our students upon graduation as they move into leadership positions."

Ampadu Honored for Work in Healthcare



Jerrica Ampadu, PhD, RN, CCP, is a longtime advocate of quality healthcare for underserved communities and a mentor for underrepresented nursing students. These attributes, combined with her role as director of the School of Nursing's WE CARE Clinic on the East St. Louis Wyvetter H. Younge Higher Education Campus, earned Ampadu the 2021 Outstanding Leadership Award in Health presented by the NAACP East St. Louis Branch.

"I am honored to receive this award, and I will never tire of working to improve healthcare for those who need it most," said Ampadu, an East St. Louis native.

Ampadu has contributed to healthcare in the greater East St. Louis community for more than 25 years and has served as an SIUE faculty member for more than 18 years.

"Dr. Ampadu's commitment to providing equitable access to care for underserved populations is evident by her multiple accomplishments as WE CARE Clinic director since 2019," said Robert Betts, NAACP political and social chairman who nominated Ampadu for the award. "She has made outstanding efforts to provide necessary services and resources specific to the needs of the community."

Ampadu consistently seeks out grant funding to provide services to the East St. Louis community, including a \$2.6 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration that focuses on providing chronic care services, while at the same time developing clinic staff and nursing students as providers of chronic care.

"So much needs to be done to bring about equity and needed resources," said Ampadu. "I am glad to play a small part in helping improve the health of East St. Louis and surrounding communities."

WE CARE Clinic Provides Comprehensive Primary Care Services

The WE CARE Clinic is a nurse-managed primary care clinic sponsored by the School of Nursing to provide care to diverse clients in the Metro East. An interprofessional team works together to care for each patient in a holistic way.

Located on the SIUE East St. Louis Wyvetter H. Younge Higher Education Campus, the Clinic's staff includes an advanced nurse practitioner, collaborating physician, licensed clinical social worker, certified health coaches and a doctorally prepared pharmacist.

The Clinic is open daily and provides comprehensive, evidence-based primary care services to patients ages 2 and older. Each member of the care team believes all patients deserve holistic, culturally competent care.

Learn more at siue.edu/nursing/we-care-clinic.



Nurse Anesthesia Program Raises \$24K at **Networking Fundraiser**

The School of Nursing hosted its inaugural Nurse Anesthesia Networking Night and Fundraiser in June. More than 150 alumni, students and clinical partners attended the sold-out event at Top Golf in Chesterfield, Mo., raising more than \$24,000 to fund state-of-theart equipment for the nurse anesthesia simulation lab.



"This event was the first high-volume networking event allowed since prior to the pandemic. The anesthesia community was ready to meet each other again in a face-to-face format," said Leah Baecht, DNP, CRNA, APRN, assistant director and instructor of nurse anesthesia. "The outpouring of support for the nurse anesthesia program and lab from our alumni and clinical and corporate partners was overwhelming. Everyone in attendance was incredibly generous with their investment in training current and future generations of nurse anesthetists."

The SIUE nurse anesthesia program delivers a first-rate clinical experience to students by offering a broad spectrum of hands-on learning opportunities in diverse settings. Due to the program's explosive growth over the last few years, the School identified a need for expanded equipment in its simulation lab.

"Funds raised from the event will go toward the purchase of a Glidescope with a bronchoscope system," said Baecht. "Proper placement of an endotracheal tube under direct laryngoscopy (airway intubation) requires a high level of skill and training. It is imperative the students become familiar with this equipment during their anesthesia training. Our simulation lab offers the ideal practical learning setting to master such skills."

We Want to Hear from You!

Do you have a personal or professional achievement you'd like to share with other School of Nursing alumni? Send your submission to pmcdona@siue.edu.



School of Nursing Honors Outstanding Preceptors

In recognition of the critical role preceptors play in preparing nurse practitioner students, the School of Nursing presented four preceptor excellence awards in December 2021.

"Preceptors are some of the most important mentors that our family and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner students will have in their doctoral program," said Bernadette Sobczak, DNP, clinical assistant professor and family nurse practitioner program clinical site coordinator. "They spend many hours one-on-one with our students in the clinical setting, sharing their knowledge and time to mentor those new to our profession."

The School has agreements with preceptors in a variety of settings, providing care to a wide range of populations and at diverse sites in Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin and even Florida. Students in the School's doctor of nursing practice program were asked to nominate outstanding preceptors. A committee of faculty then reviewed the nominees, selecting winners in the categories of family practice, women's health, mental health and pediatrics.

- Family Practice: Tammy Vandermolen. DNP. APN, FNP-BC, BJC Medical Group Family Physicians of Alton
- Women's Health: Felecia Ernst, MSN, APN, FNP-C, Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation, Alton
- Mental health: Andrea Cutler, MSN, APRN, PMHNP, HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital Outpatient Behavioral Health Services, Effingham
- **Pediatrics:** Ashish John, MD, Memorial Health, Springfield, Ill.

"Our programs could not succeed without our preceptors," said Valerie Griffin, DNP, clinical associate professor and director of nurse practitioner specializations. "They provide that connection between what is taught in the classroom to actual patient encounters, which helps students to solidify the foundational knowledge necessary to their futures as advanced practice registered nurses."

School Brings Healthcare Topics to Summer Reading Program

School of Nursing faculty and community health nursing students partnered with the Fairmont City Library for a summer reading program to introduce children to health-related topics in a fun and engaging way. Students from kindergarten to high school were invited to take part in the program, which was funded through a grant from SIUE's Meridian Society.

"A lot of the kids are looking for things to do throughout the day," said Amelia Perez, PhD, associate professor. "They come to the library as a central place in town they can walk to and participate in healthy and safe activities within the community."

Perez, along with faculty colleagues Tracy Cooley, DNP, Bernadette Sobczak, DNP, Greg Jennings, DNP, and Marilyn Boatman, MSN, led the initiative.

"I want to help underserved communities, because they do not always have the access and resources for things they need. It is nice to see these kids come out to the library, wanting to be active and involved." *Kena Birge BS Nursing '22*

The teaching materials, which focused on various life topics, including mental health, physical activity, sleep, nutrition and career insight, were developed in both Spanish and English to serve varying community demographics. Perez, a native of the Dominican Republic, is passionate about reaching the Hispanic community. That's why she has partnered with the Fairmont City Library on various projects for the past 10 years.

"I love working with this community," Perez said. "Kids need to see professionals who represent their background. Our group of community health nursing students set up the activities, help supervise the kids, and engage in activities and education with them. It is a good way for nursing students to interact with children from underserved communities and see how important it is to get funding for these types of impactful outreach initiatives."

Kena Birge, BS nursing '22, enjoyed the opportunities presented through her community health clinical to gain nursing experience outside of a hospital setting. Birge was encouraged by the participants' willingness to engage and respond to her and her classmates.

"I want to be a light in the community," said Birge. "I want to help underserved communities, because they do not always have the access and resources for things they need. It is nice to see these kids come out to the library, wanting to be active and involved."



School Doubles Scholarship Support, **Celebrates Impact**

School of Nursing faculty, staff, students and donors gathered at the School's annual Scholarship and Awards Ceremony in April to celebrate the presentation of 60 awards valued at more than \$60,000 for deserving nursing students. This scholarship support is double what the School had previously been able to award thanks to the generous support of donors.

"This has been an extremely challenging last couple of years for us all, personally and professionally," shared Senior Director of Development Patti McDonald. "But, the response of nurses, nurse educators and our students to these difficult and ever-changing circumstances has been nothing short of heroic. The world has truly discovered the value of nurses and their significant impact on quality of life and well-being."



Scholarship Recipients



"To me, these scholarships mean less stress while studying for an exam, having more options when looking for out-of-town clinicals, or buying that extra resource I had been considering for boards preparation. Donors like Dr. Clement and Mrs. Helwig have forever impacted me and my future."

Cassie Starrett, RN, BSN Nurse Anesthesia DNP Program



"I want to thank all scholarship donors. Without your generous financial support, I would not have been able to afford a college education and continue to pursue my educational goals. Upon graduation, I am excited to further my journey as a graduate nursing student and as a future nurse."

Claire Choi Traditional BSN Program

Support the School of Nursing in **Numerous Ways**

We are grateful to the alumni, faculty, friends and healthcare providers who partner with the School of Nursing to advance excellence in our academic programs, facilities, equipment and systems. Learn more about our fundraising priorities below and consider supporting one or more areas that matter most to you!

General Development Needs

Gifts directly advance important student and faculty development programs, as well as alumni relations and events.

Undergraduate Simulation Lab Equipment

Donations provide cutting-edge clinical simulation equipment and systems that drive the future of undergraduate nursing education.

Graduate Level Nurse Anesthesia Simulation Lab Equipment

Gifts fund cutting-edge lab equipment that enhances our ability to help students transfer nurse anesthesia theory into practice.

WE CARE Clinic Emerging Needs

Gifts provide needed patient-care equipment and programming to help meet the pressing needs of the community we serve. No patient is turned away from the Clinic due to their inability to pay.

Annual/Endowed Scholarships

Donors may establish individually named and funded scholarships or make gifts to group funded scholarships. Our goal is to double the number of scholarships available for students.

Student Nurse Achievement Program Development

Donations provide life-changing nursing education and career development opportunities for underserved youth.

School Of Nursing Emergency Fund For Students

Gifts support nursing students experiencing unexpected personal and financial hardships.

School Of Nursing Dean's Leadership Society

Donations support emergency strategic priorities for the School of Nursing.

Planned Giving Donors Circle

Planned gifts are a meaningful way to support the School's future. Deferred gift options include bequests, life insurance, charitable annuities and many others. Gift forms include cash, securities, real estate and in-kind contributions."

Contact Patti McDonald, senior director of development, at pmcdona@siue.edu or 618-650-3906 for assistance with your gift planning, or visit siue.edu/nursing/alumni/giving for more information.



Endowed Scholarship Honors Service of Retired Dean Laura Bernaix

Prior to the retirement of Dean Laura Bernaix, PhD, RN, in May 2021, the School of Nursing launched a major gift campaign to honor Bernaix for her outstanding leadership, dedication and service to the SIUE School of Nursing and University—her alma mater—for more than 30 years. Nearly \$55,000 was raised to established the Dean Laura Bernaix Leadership in Nursing Endowment. A donor recognition and plaque unveiling event was held in September 2021 at B. Barnard Birger Hall on the SIUE campus.

Leading supporters of the SIUE School of Nursing spearhead the successful campaign and then shared their profound gratitude to Dean Bernaix during the celebration for all she has accomplished on behalf of nursing and communities in this region and beyond.

Make your gift to the School of Nursing at siue.edu/give-now/nursing.

Recognizing Our Donors

We are grateful to the following donors for their generous support of the SIUE School of Nursing during fiscal years 2021 and 2022. Thank you for supporting our School as we educate, empower and support diverse learners to achieve excellence in nursing.

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