ANNUAL REPORT OF SCHOLARSHIP

COLLEGE OF NURSING 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR
Gratitude for Dr. Kristen Swanson’s Leadership and Service

Innovation and Inclusivity Drive New Nursing Dean

Seattle University College of Nursing First in Northwest to Receive “Healthcare Simulation Standards Endorsement”

Scholarship

College of Nursing Welcomes Distinguished Nurse Scholar

Student Scholarly Projects

Diversifying Health Care

Dr. Gayle Robinson Awarded Funds from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to Advance Anti-Racist Solutions in Nursing

Mark Jason Cabudon, ’25, Accepted to Reach Scholar Addiction Medicine Training Program at Yale School of Medicine

Daniela Acuna Aguirre, ’24, Eileen Ridgway Outreach Scholar

College of Nursing Faculty, Alumna, Inducted as Fellows of The American Academy Of Nursing

Honors

Students, Alumni and Faculty Put Learning into Action

Dr. Jaime Navetta, SU Alumna, to Serve as Interim Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs

“IT WAS A JOY AND HONOR TO BE PART OF A FACULTY AND STAFF WHO ARE SO DEEPLY COMMITTED TO PURSUING OUR MISSION TO EDUCATE AND INSPIRE LEADERS TO TRANSFORM HEALTH CARE FOR A JUST AND HUMANE WORLD,” SAID DR. SWANSON. “EVEN MORE GRATIFYING WAS WITNESSING THE GRIT, PASSION AND RESILIENCE OF OUR STUDENTS AND GRADUATES, ESPECIALLY DURING THE CHALLENGES OF THE PAST FEW YEARS.”

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A publication of Seattle University College of Nursing
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DEAN: BUTCH DE CASTRO, PHD, MSN/MPH, RN, FAAN
GRATITUDE FOR DR. KRISTEN SWANSON’S LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Dr. Kristen Swanson, now Dean Emerita, retired from Seattle University June 30, 2023, after serving as Dean of the College of Nursing for just under nine years. The lasting impact of Dr. Swanson’s leadership is evident. She was deeply committed to the care and success of students and worked to embed Jesuit values throughout the college. During her deanship, the college saw notable growth in enrollment, expanded program offerings, increased diversity of the student body, a furthering of its already strong reputation for academic excellence, and demonstrated service to the community.

ENROLLMENT GROWTH AND PROGRAM EXPANSION
• Overall enrollments grew by 42% from 635 in 2015 to 1,104 in 2023. Annually, the College now graduates approximately 180 BSN prepared RNs, 22 BS and post-bacc certificate prepared Ultrasonographers, and 82 DNP prepared nurse practitioners.
• In 2017, the College fully transitioned advanced practice nursing education to the doctoral level creating more entry options to obtain a DNP for college graduates across the full range of experience levels, from non-nurses to master’s prepared nurses.
• Also in 2017, the Diagnostic Ultrasound program joined the College creating a new venue for cross-program learning and opportunities to educate health professionals ready to collaborate in a complex care environment.
• The Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program, which admits both DNP and post-graduate certificate students, was developed and fully launched in 2018.

COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS
• The College’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion resulted in the fact that 70% of BSN students, 78% of DIUS students and 55% of DNP students at SU are from Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color.
• During Dr. Swanson’s deanship, 12 Endowed Scholarships and 6 Scholarship Funds were established, and donor investment in endowments totaled over $4.2M. She also established the Student Financial Emergency Fund, which provides financial assistance to College of Nursing students who are unable to meet immediate, essential expenses because of temporary hardships related to an emergency or crisis.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
The DNP program was ranked 61st in the U.S. News & World Report 2023-2024 “Best Graduate Schools.” Ranking 61st out of 409 DNP programs nationally placed it among the top 15 percent of nursing schools. The College also demonstrated its academic excellence through the successful re-accreditation of the BSN, DNP, and midwifery programs.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY
A particular point of pride for Dr. Swanson was the relationship she fostered between SU and the Swedish Health System leading to her pivotal role in the establishment of the Swedish Community COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at Campion Hall. At the height of the pandemic, over 75,000 vaccinations were administered by the clinic. One-fifth of the volunteers were affiliated with SU.

AN ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER
Dr. Swanson has had an illustrious career as an educator, scientist, administrator and consultant. Her past scholarship and research, funded by the National Institutes of Health, focused on caring, responses to miscarriage and interventions to promote healing after early pregnancy loss. Dr. Swanson developed the “Swanson Theory of Caring” which is used as a model for practice, education and research around the world. Dr. Swanson completed her PhD at the University of Colorado School of Nursing where she received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022. She completed postdoctoral studies at the University of Washington where she remained on faculty for more than twenty years. Just prior to joining the Seattle University community, she served as Dean and Alumni Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing and Associate Chief Nursing Officer for Academic Affairs at University of North Carolina Hospitals.

Among Dr. Swanson’s many honors and contributions include selection as a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow, service on the Board of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, chairing the Board of Trustees for the Swedish Health System, induction into the Washington State Nurses Association Hall of Fame, membership on the National Advisory Council for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars Program, and fellowship in the American Academy of Nursing.

We are grateful for Dr. Swanson’s leadership and steadfast commitment to our Jesuit values and mission to educate and inspire leaders to transform health care for a more just, equitable and humane world.
INNOVATION AND INCLUSIVITY DRIVE NEW NURSING DEAN

Butch de Castro talks about the future of the College of Nursing and how it is educating nurses for a changing health care landscape.

BY TARA LEE

Before being named Dean of Seattle University’s College of Nursing, Butch de Castro, PhD, MSN/MPH, RN, FAAN, was aware that its graduates were highly sought after by health care employers throughout the region.

“This is because of the mission-oriented and values-based approach to health care practice they learn at Seattle University. With graduates being known with those strengths, I was excited about the opportunity to help further that legacy,” says de Castro.

Taking the helm from Dean Kristen Swanson, who retired at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year, de Castro began his tenure as Dean on July 1. Before coming to Seattle University, de Castro was a professor in the Department of Child, Family and Population Health Nursing at the University of Washington and served as the school’s inaugural Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He was also co-director of the Research in Nursing & Global Health training program and director of the Occupational & Environmental Health Nursing graduate training program at the UW.

After graduating from UCLA with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, de Castro began his career as an operating room nurse and then became a public health nurse. He went on to earn a Master of Science in Nursing/Master of Public Health degree as well as a PhD from Johns Hopkins University. Following work in the health policy arena at the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration and later, with the American Nurses Association, de Castro was a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Illinois at Chicago, initiating his research on immigrant health.

In this Q&A, Dean de Castro talks about his vision for the College of Nursing, the future of the nursing industry, his favorite spot in Seattle and more.

What made you want to come to Seattle University?

de Castro: I was well aware of the College of Nursing’s reputation. Not only is my wife an alum (Rachel Caluag, ’03), but many people throughout various health care systems speak so positively of its graduates. I believe strongly in education based in Jesuit tradition and benefited myself from attending a Jesuit high school.

What is your vision for the role?

de Castro: As Dean, I am intent that the College of Nursing pursues actions that actualize Seattle University’s Reigniting Our Strategic Directions 2022-2027 to be a ‘Jesuit University of Distinction for a Time of Change.’ Co-creating with faculty and staff endeavors to meet its goals is a top priority. The prospect to help build out the future of Seattle University really animates me.

It will be important to imbue the operations and milieu of the College of Nursing with principles and ideals that reflect the university’s vision and priorities, along with the spirit of the Pacific Northwest.

For example, it alarms me that health care settings—ironically where people are supposed to get well—collectively make up one of the highest polluting industries in the world, which in turn causes illness and disease. I am hoping the College of Nursing can lead in modeling how health care can be taught and carried out in green, sustainable ways. At our Clinical Performance Lab, we will evaluate how we use supplies and equipment that are often made of disposable plastics and toxic metals and look for ways to use products and employ practices that are environmentally friendly.

I am also mindful of how a university education serves as a vehicle for social mobility by providing students across a range of identities and lived experiences a path to a productive, rewarding career. We will enhance our curriculum and improve the student experience in ways that fulfill our mission.

What are some opportunities in the College of Nursing?

de Castro: In order to advance health equity and provide care that diversifying patient populations deserve, we need to assure students are well-prepared for what is in store for them in professional practice settings. Moreover, we have an increasingly diverse student body who need to see themselves and the communities they identify with represented in their learning, whether the topics they study, the clinical sites where they hone their skills and among course instructors they learn from.

We also have opportunities to create new academic programs in service to community needs. We should be asking what health care practice professions and specializations are needed for the region and beyond.

Where does nursing education need to go?

de Castro: We will see more and more advancements in simulation learning. Technological and pedagogical strategies are emerging with great creativity and potential. We are better understanding how simulation can be effective for health professions training. Plus, simulation learning offers students safer, yet realistic, ways of experiencing patient care, especially when hospital and clinic settings are constrained more than ever to host students.
“I WANT TO FOSTER A SPACE THAT MOTIVATES AND SUPPORTS INNOVATIVE AND INCLUSIVE WAYS OF PREPARING NEXT GENERATIONS OF THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE, AS WELL AS MODELS PROGRESSIVE THINKING THAT INSPIRES OUR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF TO STRIVE FOR A JUST, HUMANE WORLD.”

How is nursing different than when you started?

de Castro: There is greater appreciation for social determinants of health, those upstream factors that shape where and how people live, learn, work, play, worship and obtain health care. When I started, illness and disease were conventionally viewed as an individual-level problem. It has taken awhile for health care providers to fully recognize how a person’s circumstances in society influence their health. As a result, we are seeing more nurses and other health care professionals actively engaging in public policy and politics as a way to promote health and wellness at the population level, in addition to providing care to individuals through their clinical roles.

Favorite spot in Seattle?

de Castro: On a Washington state ferry, crossing Puget Sound waters. Or any seat, any section, any stadium where a Seattle sports team is playing.

When not working how do you like to spend your time?

de Castro: Playing board games with my children and strumming hip hop and pop songs on the ukulele.

What are you reading now?


It discusses how loneliness is increasingly becoming a driver of poor physical and psychological health. The book points out how we are social creatures who rely and thrive on meaningful interpersonal engagement. Often college students tend to feel lonely, isolated and even possibly struggle with imposter syndrome. We must make efforts and extend the care to build a campus community where all feel they truly belong, while honoring diversity of identities and perspectives.
In June 2023, the College of Nursing was recognized as a recipient of the “Healthcare Simulation Standards Endorsement” by the International Nursing Association of Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL) for the Core Four Standards of: Prebriefing, Debriefing, Facilitation, and Professional Integrity.

The endorsement publicly recognizes the College of Nursing for excellence in creating simulation experiences that enhance student learning and a commitment to fully applying simulation standards from the Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice™ into its program.

The College of Nursing’s Clinical Performance Lab is a highly utilized simulation hub that houses a 24-bed simulated hospital, a 6-room simulated outpatient clinic and 3 high-fidelity simulation suites. During the first 6 months of 2023, over 1,000 students participated in 130 high-fidelity simulations, including 9 different clinical scenarios focusing on pediatric, adult, reproductive health, older adult and acute care.

Seattle University’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is the first 4-year nursing program in the entire Northwest region to earn this distinction, shared by only 30 nursing schools across the country. The INACSL Endorsement is valid for three years, through 2026, at which time the college will submit for a renewed and extended endorsement of five years.
THE COLLEGE OF NURSING'S CLINICAL PERFORMANCE LAB IS A HIGHLY UTILIZED SIMULATION HUB

24-BED SIMULATED HOSPITAL
6-ROOM SIMULATED OUTPATIENT CLINIC
3 HIGH-FIDELITY SIMULATION SUITES

DURING THE FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 2023
Over 1,000 students participated in 130 high-fidelity simulations
9 different clinical scenarios covering pediatric, adult, reproductive health, older adult and acute care
SCHOLARSHIP

PUBLICATIONS

JENNIFER FRICAS, PhD, MPH, RN

BERNICE GULEK-BAKIRCI, PhD, ARNP
Sayin, Y., & Gulek, B. G. (2022). Observational retrospective cohort two centered study on external ventricular drain-related infections in U.S. and Turkey. Turkish Neurosurgery, 32(1).

YUTING LIN, PhD, RN

JILA MIRLASHARI, PhD, RN

ROBIN NARRUHN, PhD, RN

KUMHEE RO, DNP, FNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP

GAYLE ROBINSON, PhD, RN

MO-KYUNG SIN, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGS

Diane Fuller Switzer, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, FAEN, FAAN, FAENP

Dr. Tener Goodwin Veenema joined the Seattle University community as the 2023 Dr. Luth M. Tenorio College of Nursing Dean’s Endowed Lecturer. Her topic, “The Dual Crisis of Primary Care and Public Health in the U.S.: The Role for Nursing” outlined current challenges facing health care systems in the U.S. Dr. Veenema is Senior Scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and a Senior Scientist in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

PRESENTATIONS

LISA ABEL, DNP, ARNP, WHNP-BC

Abel, L. (2022, October 28). Increasing access to cervical cancer screening in underserved communities [Conference presentation]. Advanced Practice in Primary Care Conference, Seattle, WA.

FATMEH CHOUANI, PhD, RN
Miralash, J., & Chouani, F. (2023, June). Panel research presentation: Clinical teaching experience. [Invited panel presenter]. Nurse Educators Conference 2023; Bridging the Gap State, University of Washington School of Nursing. Seattle, WA.

THERRY ROSE EPARWA, DNP, FNP-BC

JENNIFER FRICAS, PhD, MPH, RN


DAISY S. GARCIA, PhD, RN
Garcia, D. S. (2022, November). Sucre-Seattle virtual dialogues on nursing education methodologies [Conference presentation]. XVII Pan American Nursing Research Colloquium: Building the Future of Nursing for Universal Health, University of Miami, School of Nursing & Health Studies, Miami, FL.


AMANDA HEFFERNAN, PhD, CNM, ARNP

Heffernan, A. (2022, May 26). El embarazo en los centros de detención migratorios de los Estados Unidos: La necropolítica de género de la opresión reproductiva [Conference presentation]. Seminario Estudios Críticos del Derecho y Migraciones, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico, Virtual.


BENJAMIN HOCUTT, MSN, AG-ACNP


SUZAN GRIFFIS KNOWLES, DNP, RN-BC
Switzer, D., & Knowles, S. (2023, April). Ethics crisis standards of care simulation photography [Poster presentation]. Dr. Luth M. Tenorio College of Nursing Dean’s Endowed Lectureship, Seattle, WA.

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JILA MIRLASHARI, PhD, RN
Mirlashari, J., & Choupani, F. (2023, June). Panel research presentation: Clinical teaching experience. [Invited panel presenter]. Nurse Educators Conference 2023, Bridging the Gap State, University of Washington School of Nursing, Seattle, WA.

PATRICK J. M. MURPHY, PhD

ROBIN NARRUHN, PhD, RN


KUMHEE RO, DNP, FNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP


Mo-Kyung Sin, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA

MO-KYUNG SIN, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA
Sin, M. K. (2023, February 7). Relationship between late-life blood pressure and cerebral microinfarcts in octogenarians: An observational autopsy study. [Invited presentation]. Faculty Lightening Talks, Seattle University Office of Sponsored Projects, Seattle, WA.

SCHOLARSHIP Continued from page 7

Julie Baxter, MSN, RN, NPD-BC
Bonnie Bowie, PhD, MBA, RN
Theresa Braungartd, MN, RN, NE-BC, SVP
Kristy Carrington, MBA, RN, NEA-BC
Marilyn Cope, MPA
Denise Filitrault, MN, RN, NPD-BC, CCRN-K
Bonnie Fryzlewicz, MN, RN, NE-BC
Yolanda Grandjean, DNP, RN

Jennifer Graves, MS, RN
Janine Holbrook, MSN, RN
Donna Jensen, MN, RNC
Dana M. Kyles, MS, RN, NEA-BC
Theresa McDonnell, DNP, ACNP-BC
Carrie Miller, PhD, RN, CHSE, CNE, IBCLC
Keri Nasenbeny MHA, BSN, RN
Dana Nelson-Peterson, DNP, RN, NEA-BC


Diane Fuller Switzer, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, ENP-C, FAEN, FAAN, FAANP


Ben White, PhD, RN

ADVISED BY LEADERS IN HEALTH CARE AND ACADEMIA

The College of Nursing thanks members of its 2022-2023 Academic Advisory Board for their time and service dedicated to assuring quality education and learning experiences for our students.

Renee Rassililey-Bomers, DNP, CMSRN, RN-BC
Cindy Sayre, PhD, RN
Constance Schein, RN
Mary Shepler, RN, BSN, MA, NEA-BC
Kristen Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN
Sylvain Trepanier, DNP, RN
Danuta Wojnar, PhD, RN, MED, IBCLC, FAAN
DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

ADULT-GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM


Filtovic, Alesia. Critical analysis of an awake prone positioning protocol at a community hospital. Advisor: Benjamin Miller, PhD, ARNP, FNP-C, ACNPC, ENP-C, FAANP.

Freyfogle, Anna Mee-Joo. A retrospective analysis of risk factors related to surgical site infection incidence following spine surgery. Advisor: Bernice Gulek-Bakirci, PhD, ARNP.

Santos, Kristine Cara Tanglao. Improving acute pain management for older adults with cognitive impairments: A toolkit and competency training for nurses. Advisor: Mo-Kyung Sin, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA.

ADULT-GERONTOLOGY PRIMARY CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

Dines, Jessica M. Implementation of dementia-specific training for direct care staff to improve quality of care standards. Advisor: Mary Shelkey, PhD, GNP-BC, ARNP.

Jones-Alvey, Aila Eilison. Swedish Palliative Care Program evaluation: Proof of concept. Advisor: Bonnie Bowie, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN.

Kahl, Erica Lynn. Depression screening insights: A gap analysis. Advisor: Colleen Woolsey, PhD, ARNP.

Rutski, Kristan. Improving quality of end-of-life care through increased education and confidence of Aegis Living nursing assistants. Advisor: Anita Jablonski, PhD, RN, CNE.

CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIFERY PROGRAM

D’Avignon, Aimee Lauren. Trauma-informed care training in women’s healthcare. Advisor: Elizabeth Gabzdyl, CNM, DNP, ARNP.

Fowler, Trina Mary. Evaluating a wellness program for PCOS care using the Health Belief Model. Advisor: Elizabeth Gabzdyl, CNM, DNP, ARNP.

Frazier, Morgan. Supporting pregnant people in prenatal physical activity & exercise: Brief in-service training integrating the 6 Rs Framework to facilitate counseling by healthcare providers. Advisor: Jennifer Fricas, PhD, MPH, RN.

Freeborn, Tara Lynn. Discontinuation of Oxytocin in the active phase of labor. A viable option for induction of labor. Advisor: Kelly Mcbroom, PhD, ARNP, CNM.

Luu, Sandy Tang. Evaluating the outcome of TeamBirth Initiative at Swedish Medical Center-West Hill. Advisor: Lisa Abel, DNP, ARNP, WHNP-BC.

Moon, Juniper. Eyes wide shut: Disrupting the myth of cultural competency in healthcare. Advisor: Robin Narruhn, PhD, RN.

Nicholson, Molly. Trauma-informed care training in women’s healthcare. Advisor: Elizabeth Gabzdyl, CNM, DNP, ARNP.

Oliver, Isla Sage. Improving the delivery of preconception counseling in primary care settings: A student-focused approach. Advisor: Elizabeth Gabzdyl, CNM, DNP, ARNP.

Sanchez, Vivianne Amparo. Prenatal infant feeding self-efficacy screening: A DNP quality improvement mixed methods approach for prenatal provider intervention opportunities. Advisor: Carrie Miller PhD.D, RN, CHSE, CNE, IBCLC.

Schumer, Hilary. Barriers to attending vaginal breech birth in the American healthcare system. A qualitative analysis. Advisor: Elizabeth Gabzdyl, CNM, DNP, ARNP.

Valdes, Victoria Marie. Discontinuation of Oxytocin in the active phase of labor: A viable option for induction of labor. Advisor: Kelly McBroom, PhD, ARNP, CNM.

Villa, Leslie Vanessa. Barriers and facilitators to the integration of doula in the hospital setting: A needs assessment in support of advancing partnerships with doula. Advisor: Lisa Abel, DNP, ARNP, WHNP-BC.

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

Adan, Sahara. Education intervention to increase awareness about cervical cancer and screening in Somali women. Advisor: Robin Narruhn, PhD, RN.

Ahumada, Isabela Tali Reyna. Measuring the impact and satisfaction rates of Promotora de Salud-led health programs in Yakima County. Advisor: Jennifer Fricas, PhD, MPH, RN.


Azzaaini, Amani Abdelfattah Daher. Improving confidence and knowledge in Muslim mental health: Cultural competency training for healthcare workers. Advisor: Elizabeth Gallagher, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC.

Barrera, Javier. Exploring retention and motivation factors in opioid use disorder treatment. Advisor: Courtnay Foss, DNP, APRN, FNP-C.

Bernhards, Sarah. Improving primary care provider communication strategies on eating disorders and body image concerns for adolescent patients. Advisor: Benjamin White, PhD, RN.

Bhagwati, Devaswa. Zone tools for symptomatic heart failure: A mixed-methods approach. Advisor: Anita Jablonski, PhD, RN, CNE.

Cruz, Lesley Ann. Mitigating secondary traumatic stress with mindfulness-based interventions for nursing students and frontline healthcare workers. Advisor: Heather Balser, DNP, MSNEd, RN, RYT.

DeBoer, Nicole Carolyn. The evaluation of in-person vs. telemedicine follow-up appointments and weight loss success for rural bariatric surgery patients: A comparative study. Advisor: Patrick Murphy, PhD.

Galindo, Sabrina R. The evaluation of in-person vs. telemedicine follow-up appointments and weight loss success for rural bariatric surgery patients: A comparative study. Advisor: Patrick Murphy, PhD.

Gibson, Brooke A. Improving asthma treatment protocols in the practice setting. Advisor: Patrick Murphy, PhD.

Green, Devon Renee. Safe care transitions and medication distribution at camp for youth with disabilities. Advisor: Suzan Knowles, DNP, RN-BC.

Hall, Laura Charlene. Continuous versus bolus feeding in hospitalized older patients: The need to feed. Advisor: Mary Shelkey, PhD, GNP-BC, ARNP.

Hassan, Mohamed M. Improving knowledge and understanding of DASH Diet in the Somali immigrant population: An educational intervention. Advisor: Courtney Foss, DNP, APRN, FNP-C.

Hawker, Kara J. Changing practice patterns of PCPs on the management of atrial fibrillation through education. Advisor: Benjamin Miller, PhD, ARNP, FNP-C, ACNPC, ENP-C, FAANP.
The College of Nursing receives a $2.5 million grant to help expand the number of BIPOC doctoral nursing practitioners and increase outreach to underrepresented populations.

A new grant awarded to the College of Nursing will help prepare doctoral nursing students in an effort to increase health care providers in underserved urban and rural areas, while also expanding the diversity of the workforce to include more BIPOC professionals particularly in the areas of primary care, midwifery and mental health.

Associate Dean for Graduate Programs Dr. Bonnie Bowie, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN, was awarded the $2.5 million grant from the Advanced Nursing Education Workforce HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration). Covering four years, the grant will support several initiatives including:

- Partial scholarships for roughly three dozen primary care, midwifery and psychiatric mental health Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students each year that will include travel and lodging for travel to rural areas in southwest Washington and northeast Montana.
- Funding for creating a BIPOC peer mentorship program and for faculty to attend a yearlong DEI workshop in partnership with Seattle University’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion.
- The grant will also cover a half-time program support person as well as funds for the College of Nursing to obtain a continuing education license and for faculty to develop online trainings for clinical partners.

“Recognizing the tremendous health care needs of underserved, historically marginalized and geographically distant communities, this HRSA award will allow Seattle University to better support training of advanced practice registered nurses, especially to graduate students with underrepresented identities,” says College of Nursing Dean Butch de Castro, PhD, MSN/MPH, RN, FAAN. “I so admire and appreciate Dr. Bowie and all others who selflessly committed their time and effort to apply for this funding. This pursuit truly reflects our college’s mission to take action in ways that will transform health care in order to create a just and humane world.”

This grant aligns with the mission of the College of Nursing to improve health care access while educating nursing professionals to care for communities and populations they represent. Currently, BIPOC students comprise roughly 55% of all DNP students.

“I think one of the reasons we were awarded the grant is because we place such emphasis on serving the underserved and routinely partner with health care agencies who share our mission and values,” says Dr. Bowie, who has been at the College of Nursing for 23 years.

“Of all the things I have accomplished during my time at SU, increasing the diversity of our student population is something I am most proud of. However, there is more work to be done in this area and I am thrilled that with this HRSA award, we have the opportunity to build on this work to create a more inclusive environment for our students.”

Here is more from Dr. Bowie on the impact this grant will have not only in training the next wave of nursing professionals but also on the college as a whole.

**What does it mean for you and the work of supporting doctoral students in the college to receive a grant like this?**

“I can’t tell you how much this grant means to me—not only because it will provide scholarships for about 36 students each year, but also because it will support some of our students who will do their clinical practicum in rural places such as northeast Montana and southwest Washington. The grant will provide travel and room funding for students who travel to the specific clinical agencies identified within the grant. We send our students all over the state to gain valuable clinical experiences as it is challenging to find preceptors who are willing to give up their time to mentor a nurse practitioner student. When students travel to other areas or states, it is typically on their dime.”

This grant covers partial scholarships for doctoral students in primary care, midwifery and psychiatric mental health. Is it focused on these three specific specialties, particularly to increase providers who care for patients in underserved urban and rural areas.

“Yes, exactly. The Health Resources and Services Administration is trying to increase the number of primary care providers in these three specific specialties, particularly to increase providers who care for patients in underserved urban and rural areas. I think one of the reasons we were awarded the grant is because we place such emphasis on serving the underserved and routinely partner with health care agencies who share our mission and values.”

**Can you tell me about how this will also help create a BIPOC peer mentorship program and what that looks like?**

“One of the goals we needed to speak to in the Advanced Nursing Education Workforce grant application was our plan for increasing and retaining BIPOC DNP students. In 2019, under the guidance of our then new Admissions Specialist, Oz Sener, we adopted a more holistic admission process for the DNP program. In 2020, Sener proposed hiring five of our current DNP students as Diversity Ambassadors who would attend recruitment and orientation events, meet with prospective students, and answer their questions. This program has been very successful and so we proposed building on the Diversity Ambassador program with something similar for supporting current BIPOC students.

“The BIPOC peer mentors will be paid a small stipend to organize quarterly meetings for networking and support of their peers. There is...
also money to invite BIPOC nurse practitioner speakers from the community to serve as role models and mentors and to increase networking. The BIPOC peer mentors will also receive guidance and mentorship from a BIPOC nurse practitioner faculty member. The need for BIPOC peer mentors came from our own students. One of the DNP students, Kimberly Ha, started a grassroots BIPOC peer mentorship program during her first year of the program and I am looking forward to working with Kimberly and other students to design a program that meets their needs.”

Do you see this as having an impact in attracting and retaining a more diverse nursing student population?

“Since implementing a more holistic admission process and adding the Diversity Ambassadors, the CON DNP program has increased BIPOC admits by 30%. Currently, BIPOC students comprise 55% of DNP students. While retention of BIPOC students is fairly high at 85%, it is slightly lower than white DNP students (89%). So yes, we are hoping that through the BIPOC peer mentorship program the retention numbers will increase, but more importantly, we want our BIPOC students to feel safe from microaggressions and biases in clinical and classroom settings.

Another important piece of the grant is to provide 10 nursing faculty each year with the opportunity to attend a yearlong educational program on creating a culturally safe learning environment for our BIPOC students. We are working with Dr. Laura Heider, the Assistant Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, to create and offer this educational program. We also included money in the budget to develop online training modules for our clinical partners and preceptors on best practices for supporting BIPOC students. Through these measures, we are also hoping that the diversity of our nursing faculty shifts to reflect that of our students over the next few years.”

This grant spans four years. What are the specific milestones or targeted initiatives for each year?

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Hentges, Tayler. Improving access to care for transgender patients. Advisor: Alic Shook, PhD, RN.

Horvath, Phoebe Catherine. Understanding skin tear prevalence and treatment: A quality improvement project. Advisor: Lisa Abel, DNP, ARNP, WHNP-BC.

Hutton, Sydney Melin. “So, You’re Having a Colonoscopy?”: A supplemental resource to improve bowel preparation before a colonoscopy. Advisor: Bonnie Bowie, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN.

Le, Dang Minh. Improving confidence and knowledge in Muslim mental health: Cultural competency training for healthcare workers. Advisor: Elizabeth Gallagher, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC.

LeVasseur, Wilfred Glenn. Monogamy… in THIS economy? How health care has failed the consensual non-monogamous patient. Advisor: Colleen Woolsey, PhD, ARNP.

Ma, Austin C. An education program to increase knowledge of the Mediterranean Diet for elderly adults: A quality improvement project. Advisor: Mary Shelyke, PhD, GNPC-BC, ARNP.

Marinkovich, Samantha Marie. Improving healthcare workers hand hygiene compliance in a long-term care facility: A multi-modal infection control strategy. Advisor: Melissa Owen, PhD, RN, CNE, PHFSA.


Mercado, Elaiza Marie Tanagon. The experiences of African American women on breast cancer knowledge, prevention and screening. Advisor: Danuta Wojnar, PhD, RN, MN, MED, IBCLC, FAAN.

Misslebeck, David James. COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy: A qualitative study exploring what influences vaccine decision-making in parents of school-aged children. Advisor: Benjamin White, PhD, RN.

Monirzad, Pouran. Increasing health literacy regarding management of hypertension among the Ethiopian communities. Advisor: Robin Narruhn, PhD, RN.

Nguyen, Lan Hoang. Instilling confidence in school nurses’ response to an earthquake disaster. Advisor: Annette J. Thomas, PhD, RN.

Olin, Jocelin Eulalia Black. The Impact of mobile integrated healthcare on patient activation. Advisor: Diane Fuller Switzer, DNP, ARNP, FNP-ENP-C, ENP-BC, CEN, CCRN, FAEN, FAANP.

Pile, Sadie Paloma Sherman. Caring for fat bodies: Bridging the gap between intention and practice in primary care. Advisor: Kelly McBroom, PhD, ARNP, CNM.

Purewal-Nahal, Ravneet Kaur. Measuring the impact and satisfaction rates of Promotor de Salud-led health programs in Yakima County. Advisor: Jennifer Fricas, PhD, MPH, RN.

Reyes, Maines. Spanish speaking students. Advisor: Kristen Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN.

Rocheleau, Justine. Safe care transitions and medication distribution at camp for youth with disabilities. Advisor: Suzan Knowles, DNP, MN, RN-BC.

Roderick, Marie Nicole. Identifying barriers to intimate partner violence screening amongst primary care staff with severe mental illness. Advisor: Kristen Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN.

Samuel, Mark. The experiences of African women with breast cancer knowledge, prevention and screening. Advisor: Danuta Wojnar, PhD, RN, MN, MED, IBCLC, FAAN.


Schroeder, Elly Christine. Using parental perception and preference to influence the delivery of behavioral health in pediatric primary care. Advisor: Yuting Lin, PhD, RN.

Seward, Diane. Empowering the future nurse practitioner: Optimizing cardiovascular care in the adult women in the primary care setting. Advisor: Mo-Kyung Sin, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA.

Steltz, Kayla. Preceptor training and new graduate nurse satisfaction. Advisor: Carrie Miller PhD, RN, CHSE, CNE, IBCLC.

Tat, Amy. Education program on safe medication administration for nursing assistants. Advisor: Mo-Kyung Sin, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA.

Tran, Sophia Ngoc. Education intervention to increase awareness about cervical cancer and screening in Somali women. Advisor: Robin Narruhn, PhD, RN.

Unger, Isabelle Antonia. Evaluating potential predictors of postoperative opioid use following oocyte retrievals. Advisor: Patrick Murphy, PhD.


PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

Ayongba, Fonabai Etapong. Reducing coercive measures to improve patient and staff safety by increasing the frequency of risk assessment. Advisor: Jonnae Tillman, DNP, PMHNP-BC.

Brumbaugh, Amy. Factors influencing continuity of mental health care for women, jail release to community re-entry: A needs assessment based on lived experiences. Advisor: Colleen Woolsey, PhD, ARNP.

Cochran, Cordelia R. Older adults in primary care with substance use disorders: Assessment of self-perceived confidence following implementation of a treatment toolkit for providers. Advisor: Jila Mirlashari, PhD, RN.

Foster, Sarah Maryellen. Nurse-provided care for populations with severe mental illness: A phenomenological and Swanson’s Theory of Caring approach. Advisor: Colleen Woolsey, PhD, ARNP.

Hawke, Darian J. Utilizing the Butterfly Hug to reduce distress in emergency department nurses.

Advisor: Annette J. Thomas, PhD, RN.

Hok, Chanaraksmey. The perspective of care providers about barriers to medication adherence among Asian Americans suffering from depression. Advisor: Jila Mirlashari, PhD, RN.

Joyce, Patricia Marie. The integration of a behavioral health provider in a university health center. Advisor: Janiece DeSocio, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, FAAN.

Julseth, Michelle Christine. The effects of Ketamine assisted psychotherapy on mental health conditions. Advisor: Suzan Knowles, DNP, RN, MN, RN-BC.

Meeks, Andrew Kenneth. Depression screening insights: A gap analysis. Advisor: Colleen Woolsey, PhD, ARNP.

Patterson, Duane E. No blood test for bipolar, no scan for cyclothymia: Accuracy in diagnosing mood disorders. Advisor: Bonnie Bowie, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN.

Raether, Ethan. Reducing coercive measures to improve patient and staff safety by increasing the frequency of risk assessment. Advisor: Jonnae Tillman, DNP, PMHNP-BC.

Schneider, Andrea Nicole B. The effects of Ketamine assisted psychotherapy on mental health conditions. Advisor: Therry Eparwa, DNP, MSN, RN, FNP-BC.

Schuster, Jessica A. Exploring PACT staff’s perception of safety following implementation of standardized risk assessment. Advisor: Maura Carroll, DNP, MSN, ARNP.

Strickland, Victoria. Exploring retention and motivation factors in opioid use disorder treatment. Advisor: Courtney Foss, DNP, APRN, FNP-C.

Tsegga, Aleysha Honablue. Enhancing caregiver’s depression literacy of children and adolescents in a Snohomish County after-school program. Advisor: Yuting Lin, PhD, RN.


Walker, Laura A. Factors influencing continuity of mental health care for women, jail release to community re-entry: A needs assessment based on lived experiences. Advisor: Colleen Woolsey, PhD, ARNP.

POST-MASTER’S HEALTH SYSTEMS LEADER DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM


Patterson, Anne Marie. Advancing nutritional psychiatry: Cultivating knowledge and confidence in psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners. Advisor: Jonnae Tillman, DNP, PMHNP-BC.

Vandewark, Aurora Catherine. Self-confidence in clinical decision-making via simulation among pre-clinical nurse midwifery students: Addressing a challenge. Advisor: Kelly McBroom, PhD, ARNP, CNM.

CONTINUING

Bonnie H. Bowie, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN and Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, “International Community Health Services Nurse Practitioner Residency Academy Partnership,” International Community Health Services (ICHS), July 1, 2019-June 30, 2023, $69,200.

Jean Lowe, PhD, RN and Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN, “SeaMar Community Health Services Nurse Practitioner Residency Academy Partnership,” SeaMar Community Health Services, July 1, 2019-June 30, 2023, $69,200.

Alic Shook, PhD, RN, “Using youth-engaged methods to develop a technology-based sexual education intervention for transgender and gender expansive youth,” University of Wisconsin-Madison Social Media Adolescent Health Research Team, Technology and Adolescent Mental Wellness (TAM) Program, November 1, 2021-June 30, 2023, $4,500.


Jennifer Fricas, PhD, MPH, RN, “Understanding embodiment: A critical connection for improving human and environmental health under Laudato Si’ in the Anthropocene,” Faculty Fellowship in Research, Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture, Seattle University, 2023-2024.

Elizabeth Gabzdyl, DNP, CNM, ARNP, Selected as Fellow, American College of Nurse-Midwives, 2023.

Carrie Westmoreland Miller, PhD, RN, Selected as Fellow, American Academy of Nursing, 2023.

Kumhee Ro, DNP, FNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellowship Program at National Academy of Medicine, September 1, 2022-August 31, 2024, $165,000.


Yuting Lin, PhD, RN, “Developing a competency-based standardized patient simulation (SPS) on telehealth nutrition educational counseling for undergraduate nursing nutrition education,” Seed Grant, College of Nursing, Seattle University, 2023-2025.

FELLOWSHIPS

Emma Adkins, BA, Selected as Fellow for Patient Advocacy, Diabetes Link Association, 2023.

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Amanda Heffernan, PhD, CNM, ARNP, “Migration justice and health immersion,” Seed Grant, College of Nursing, Seattle University, 2023-2025.

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Mo-Kyung Sin, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA, Selected as Fellow, American Academy of Nursing, 2023.
MARK JASON CABUDOL, ’25, ACCEPTED TO REACH SCHOLAR ADDICTION MEDICINE TRAINING PROGRAM AT YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Recognizing and Eliminating disparities in Addiction through Culturally informed Healthcare (REACH) is a project funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP) to provide funding to support the cultivation and fostering of minorities as leaders and clinicians in addictions.

Mark Jason Cabudol is a doctoral student in the Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner program at Seattle University who said he is “determined to learn how to provide culturally responsive care for underrepresented minority people who inject drugs (PWID) with substance use disorder and to meet the unique needs and experiences of racial and ethnic minoritized PWID by providing evidence based, culturally informed care.”

Cabudol said he chose to pursue his degree at SU because “the comprehensive curriculum and institutional values closely align with my goals of pursuing advanced nursing practice and will provide me the skills, knowledge, and attitude to make a positive impact in health care.”

As a member of the 2023-2024 class of REACH Scholars, Cabudol is participating in a 1-year educational program, which he hopes will provide him with clinical education, collaboration and mentorship to propel him toward his career goals.
Established in May 1996, the Dr. Eileen Ridgway Endowed Nursing Scholarship inspires leadership development by encouraging student involvement in community outreach, service, and civic efforts.

Daniela Acuna Aguirre, ’24, chose to pursue her BSN at Seattle University, “because it is a smaller program that focuses on the whole person. The transfer cohort is diverse and makes me feel like I belong and am supported by people that share similar experiences. Also, the professors and faculty are caring and make sure you feel supported.”

In her scholarship project, “Increasing Resource Access for Spanish-Speaking Houseless and/or Sex Worker Clients at Aurora Commons,” Acuna Aguirre addressed language barriers that exist for Spanish-speaking clients by identifying the most frequently needed documents, pamphlets and resources and translating them into Spanish.

“Thanks to this scholarship I have been able to give back to my community. I’m volunteering in a homeless shelter where they need English to Spanish medical translation to offer better health care to homeless and sex workers at the Aurora Ave Commons,” said Acuna Aguirre.

She looks forward to receiving her BSN degree adding, “I’m an immigrant from Venezuela. I have been living in the states for 8 years. I’m going to be the first person from my family to graduate in the USA.” In her future career as a nurse, Acuna Aguirre would like to focus on Women’s Health and improving access to health care for Spanish speakers.
Drs. Diane Fuller Switzer, Kumhee Ro and Mo-Kyung Sin along with former faculty members, Drs. Sofia Aragon, ’97, and Carrie Miller were inducted as Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN) in 2023. Inductees were recognized for their substantial, sustained, and outstanding impact on health and health care.

According to the American Academy of Nursing, approximately 2,900 Fellows are nursing leaders in education, management, practice and research. Fellows represent association executives; university presidents, chancellors and deans; elected officials; state and federal political appointees; hospital chief executives and vice presidents for nursing; nurse consultants; and researchers and entrepreneurs.

Invitation to Fellowship is more than recognition of one’s accomplishments within the nursing profession. Academy Fellows also have a responsibility to contribute their time and energies to the Academy, and to engage with other health leaders outside the Academy in transforming America’s health system.
LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS & ACTIVITIES


Benjamin Hocutt, Elected, Cardiovascular Team Chapter Representative for the Washington State Chapter of the American College of Cardiology.

Benjamin Hocutt, Achieved Associate in the American College of Cardiology (AACC).

Benjamin Hocutt, Co-Chair, Cardiology Specialty Practice Group, American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Benjamin Hocutt, Co-Chair, Communications Committee, American College of Cardiology.

Angela John Mendoza, ARNP, RN, CNM, FAWM, FRSPH, Appointed Commissioner, Chair of Nursing Program Approval Panel A, and Member of Education Subcommittee, Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission, State of Washington, 2022.

Robin Narruhn, PhD, RN, Appointed Member Consumers of Public Health, King County Board of Health, 2023-2024.

Robin Narruhn, PhD, RN, Editor, Immersion Program: Advances in Nursing Science. Program designed to prepare nurse scholars to serve in the editorial role of a nursing scholarly journal and to learn how to assess scholarship for structural racism. July 15, 2021-through October 28, 2022.


Mo-Kyung Sin, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSNA, Elected, National Chair, Gerontological Society of America Health Science Section, July 2023.

FAWM, FRSPH, Appointed Commissioner, Chair of Nursing Program Approval Panel A, and Member of Education Subcommittee, Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission, State of Washington, 2023-2024.

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Jenna Curwen, DNP, ARNP, APPNP-BC, Appointed Member Consumers of Public Health, King County Board of Health, 2023-2024.

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AWARDS

FACULTY
Heather Balser, DNP, MSNEd, RN, RYT, Most Inspirational Faculty, Seattle University College of Nursing, August 2023.
Elizabeth Keating, BS, RDMS, RDCC, RVT, Most Inspirational Faculty, Seattle University College of Nursing, August 2023.
Jaime Navetta, DNP, RN, CNE, Most Inspirational Faculty, Seattle University College of Nursing, June 2023.
Diane Switzer, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, ENP-C, FAEN, FAAN, FAANP, U.S. Surgeon General COVID-19 Pandemic Civilian Service Medal, United States of America for exemplary service to the nation as part of the federal medical response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This medal was issued to civilians who deployed for 30 consecutive or 60 cumulative days to provide medical care to state, territorial, and local partners, December 2022.

STUDENTS
Nicholas Agarpo, BSN ’23, Nursing Service Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, August 2023.
Cordelia Cochran, DNP ’23, JoAnn McFadden Graduate Student Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, June 2023.
Samantha Cruz, BSN ’23, The Spirit of the College of Nursing Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, August 2023.
Olivia Hendry, BS DIUS ’23, Academic Achievement Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, August 2023.
Desiree Hernandez, BSN ’23, Nursing Service Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, June 2023.
Deanna Nguyen, BSN ’23, The Spirit of the College of Nursing Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, June 2023.
Jade Nicole Salle, BS DIUS ’23, Cohort Leadership and Service Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, August 2023.

Daniela Terebey, BS DIUS ’23, Most Improved Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, August 2023.
Shirley Wang, BSN ’23, Sister Mary Ruth Niehoff Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, June 2023.
Jennifer Yee, BSN ’23, Sister Mary Ruth Niehoff Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, August 2023.

2023 ALPHA SIGMA NU INDUCTEES FROM THE COLLEGE OF NURSING
Gabriella Angela, BSN ’23
Samantha Cruz, BSN ’23
Molly Frizzell, BSN ’23
Elizabeth Johnson, BSN ’24
Michelle Julseth, DNP ’23
Kylie Malstrom, DNP ’24
Anne Mueller, DNP ’24
Hemavattee Ramtahal, DNP ’24
Cherish Stack, BSN ’24
Erika Vaisvila, BSN ’24
Kelly Walton, DNP ’23

Cordelia Cochran, DNP ’23, receives standing ovation after being named recipient of the JoAnn McFadden Graduate Student Award.
Amanda Heffernan, PhD, CNM, ARNP, Instructor, College of Nursing; Audrey Hudgins, EdD, Clinical Associate Professor, Matteo Ricci Institute; and 11 current and former Seattle University students participated in a weeklong migrant justice immersion trip over Winter Break in 2022.

After meeting together in class, the group put their learning into action by participating in an experience facilitated by Kino Border Initiative, a Jesuit non-profit organization in Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico that provides holistic services and accompaniment to migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border. They engaged in a variety of activities to expand their awareness of border issues, including conversations with migrants, ranchers, medical examiner’s office staff and Border Patrol agents.

“It was such a privilege to engage with migrants and their stories on this immersion, and the things I learned will stick with me for the rest of my life,” said Elizabeth Eichenberger, BSN ’24. “Getting to hear migrants’ stories firsthand and see how extremely grateful they are to have someone listen to them amazed me and taught me the power of listening and simply being present with people. The issues with migration are complex and it may take many years to achieve justice, but one thing we can do right now is learn from migrants and accompany them through the adversities they face as they strive for a better life.”

“This experience was powerful and important to me,” said Katie Sherwood, BSN ’23. “Having the opportunity to hear stories of migration and forced displacement firsthand was invaluable, because it helped me better understand the U.S. immigration system and the obstacles stacked against migrants when they are on the move. I believe that I will be a better nurse, community member, and advocate because of this immersion and am very grateful for it.”

“Traveling to the U.S.-Mexico border with this group of engaged and compassionate SU students was a truly enriching experience for me as a faculty member,” said Amanda Heffernan. “Each night after dinner, I learned from our students as we reflected together on what we had experienced that day. The students listened respectfully to migrants who shared their stories with them at the Kino Comedor [dining hall], visited shelters on both sides of the border, heard a presentation from the Pima County medical examiner, and spoke to southern Arizonan ranchers and Border Patrol agents. Throughout, they held the varying perspectives they heard and the complexities they witnessed with thoughtfulness and care. It was a privilege to be with them on the journey.”

The students continued to implement their advocacy and activism plans in winter and spring quarters through engagement with Congressional offices, on- and off-campus presentations and letter writing efforts with migrants in detention.
Jaime Navetta, DNP, RN, CNE, who began her one-year appointment as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs at the College of Nursing on August 1, 2023, is a graduate of both its Doctor of Nursing Practice, ’21, and Bachelor of Science in Nursing, ’03, programs. She also has an established track record with the undergraduate nursing program having served as both a faculty academic advisor and assistant clinical professor.

Dr. Navetta is a Seattle native who grew up in the Fremont neighborhood. An animal lover, she and her husband have been fostering cats for MEOW Cat Rescue for over 10 years. She says her hobbies include “any kind” of art, gardening, travel, photography, cheering on the Seahawks, reading, and cooking. Among her newer interests are learning to become a beekeeper, reporting that this is her second year with a beehive of her own.

Get to know Dr. Jaime Navetta and about her passion for nursing education.

What made you decide to become a nurse?
“Nursing is a profession where you can apply your skills and personal talents to so many varied roles. I love nursing because you can work in a hospital, in a clinic, in a school, in the community, in policy, in research, and in higher education—all in one career. I chose nursing because it provided me with the flexibility to try different roles and facilitate continued growth throughout my career. Being a nurse is a privilege and I recognize the responsibility that comes with that. We are often with people on their best days, on their worst days, and every day in between.

As someone who loves puzzles, I see nurses as expert puzzle solvers in the way they collect and interpret data, create and collaborate on interventions, and evaluate the outcomes with an eye to continuous quality improvement.”

Why did you pursue a career as a nurse educator?
“I am an educator at heart and appreciate being in the classroom with students. I love opportunities to teach students about all the different ways they can engage with the nursing profession and help it to continue to evolve.

I really like being able to help others realize their passion—if I can make that a little easier, or have helped someone find their nursing specialty, or help translate some of the complexities of the nursing curriculum, then I feel like I have made a difference.”

As a graduate of both the BSN and DNP program, can you say a little about what drew you to SU, first as a student, and then again to pursue your career?
“I really appreciate the component of the SU mission that focuses on educating the whole person. This concept blends so nicely with nursing and translates to caring for the whole patient, whether that is a whole community, whole school, whole person, whole clinic, or whole family. As a student, that concept just made sense to me. I chose to work here because of the focus on teaching and the relationships between faculty, staff and students. It is important to me that faculty know their students, engage with them and welcome their feedback.”

What’s your favorite part of teaching and mentoring SU nursing students?
“One of my favorite things is when students have an “ah ha” moment—when a concept starts to make sense or once explained in a different way, the idea takes root. I also love using humor in learning. Whether it is finding the perfect meme, image, or simply sharing a great story to make a point.”

Is there any advice you would like to share with your students as they prepare for their careers in nursing?
“Surround yourself with people who lift you up. Find those critical friends and make an agreement that you will tell each other the truth—then agree to take their advice to heart. If they say you are doing a great job, believe them! If they say you are overthinking, believe them! If they say that you need to study more, believe them! Be a critical friend to someone else and seek out ways to support one another in positive ways.

It doesn’t matter what paths others take in nursing—find a path that excites you and makes you happy.”

“I am grateful that Dr. Navetta will bring her experience, insights and talents to our College of Nursing Leadership Team.”
- Dean Butch de Castro
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY DELIVERS A HIGH QUALITY, PERSONALIZED AND IMPACTFUL EDUCATION IN THE JESUIT TRADITION. OUR EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY CARE PASSIONATELY ABOUT EVERY STUDENT’S SUCCESS AND EMPOWERING LEADERS FOR A JUST AND HUMANE WORLD.