

Nursing Progress Report

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

2022-2023



Making Connections,
Transforming Lives:
**Dean Todero Leaves a
Legacy at Creighton**

The *College of Nursing Progress Report* is published by the Creighton University College of Nursing for alumni, students, faculty and friends.

Catherine Todero, PhD, BSN'72, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor of Nursing
Vice Provost of Health Sciences Campuses

Mary Kunes-Connell, PhD, BSN'77, RN
Professor of Nursing and Associate Dean for Academics, Assessment and Accreditation

Joan Lappe, PhD, MS'85, RN, FAAN
Professor of Nursing and
Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship

Helen Hurst, DNP, RNC-OB, APRN-CNM
Professor of Nursing and
Associate Dean – Phoenix Campus

Jeff Zeld, BSBA'92, MBA'93, JD'00
Associate Dean for Operations

Cindy Adams, BSBA'98
Assistant Dean for Administration and Finance

Nancy Bredenkamp, PhD, BSN'92, MS'03, APRN-FNP
Assistant Professor of Nursing and
Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs

Elizabeth Flott, EdD, BSN'04, MS'08, RN
Associate Professor of Nursing and
Assistant Dean for Faculty Development

Jerilyn Kamm, PhD, MA
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Julie Manz, PhD, BSN'98, MS'05, RN
Professor of Nursing and
Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs

Christina Murcek, EdD, BS'03
Assistant Dean for Outcomes and Quality

Kimberly Zuzenak, BS'96, MS'15, EdD'22
Assistant Dean for Operations and Academic Success

Ryan Batenhorst, MEd, NRP
Program Director, Paramedicine Education

Richard Davis, BA'88
Editor

Sheila Swanson
Managing Editor

Lauren Hankes
Marketing Strategist

Eugene Curtin
Contributing Writer

Address correspondence to:
College of Nursing Progress Report
Creighton University
University Communications & Marketing
2500 California Plaza
Omaha, NE 68178-0208

The *College of Nursing Progress Report* is published by the Creighton University College of Nursing.

For enrollment information, contact the College of Nursing's Admissions Office at nursing@creighton.edu or 402.280.2703.

For the latest on alumni gatherings, visit alumni.creighton.edu.

Update your mailing address electronically through alumni.creighton.edu, call 800.334.8794 or mail to Development Office, Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178-0208.

nursing.creighton.edu

Copyright © 2023 by Creighton University

Follow us:

@CreightonNurse

Creighton College of Nursing

College of Nursing

Progress Report • 2022-2023



p4
Dean Todero Retires: Guided Historic Transformation of Creighton's Nursing Program



p8
Harper Family Foundation Gift Creates Scholarship for Future Nursing Leaders



p9
Easing the Mental Health Crisis: Training Nurse Practitioners as Psychiatric Mental Health Providers



p10
Incredible Investment: State of Arizona Invests \$11.9 Million in Phoenix Campus Nursing Program



p12
Leading Change, Building Standards: Creighton Chosen as 1 of 10 Schools to Redesign National Nursing Evaluations

| | |
|---|----|
| From Pasadena to Omaha, Nursing Grad Boosts Omaha's 'Brain Gain' | 14 |
| EMS Grad Sets Sights on Becoming Flight Nurse | 15 |
| Army ROTC Scholarship Powers Debt-Free Education | 16 |
| Saving Baby Maddy: When Nursing Gets Personal | 16 |
| Post-Hospitalization Care for the Homeless Focus of Study | 18 |
| Getting It Right: Enhancing the Practice of Pharmacogenomics | 19 |
| Joan Norris Remembered | 19 |
| Faculty Scholarship | 20 |
| Faculty Highlights | 21 |
| Son Honors Mother's Devotion to Nursing Profession | 22 |
| College of Nursing Alumni Advisory Board | 22 |
| After More Than 40 Years, Adams is Heart and Soul of College of Nursing | 23 |

On the Cover

Dean Catherine Todero, PhD, BSN'72, RN, FAAN; the St. Ignatius of Loyola statue on the Creighton University Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix and St. John's Church on the Creighton Omaha campus.

Illustration by Stephanie Dalton Cowan

Message from the Dean

AFTER A 50-YEAR CAREER as a professional nurse, I have announced my retirement. This wasn't an easy decision. Nursing has been my life's work and passion, and I have enjoyed many opportunities and many accomplishments. To serve as dean of nursing at Creighton for the past eight years was truly the pinnacle of my career. I began as a surgical and trauma intensive care nurse but soon realized that teaching nursing was my calling. Being a nurse educator gave me the privilege of shaping the future of nursing by developing and leading innovative programs and together with other talented faculty, mentoring thousands of nursing students at every educational level including ADN, BSN, MSN and PhD.

This progress report delineates some of the achievements accomplished during my tenure as dean, including the launch of our Phoenix campus and other innovations. I am proud of the scholarship dollars and faculty development funding that we have garnered to advance our goals. The innovative Harper Scholars program reported here will attract five-star academic students from around the nation and fully fund them through our traditional nursing program. The Arizona scholarship dollars targeting ABSN students quickly creates nurses for Arizona where they are desperately needed.

I am also incredibly proud of the accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students. Their achievements and awards — focused on mental health, care for those experiencing homelessness, pharmacogenomics and population health — are also reported in the following pages.

Sadly, we lost a true star from the ranks of Creighton nursing alumni. Internationally renowned Dr. Barbara Braden passed away on June 24. Through the generous donation of another alumna, an endowed scholarship has been established in her name.



As I contemplate retirement, I am filled with mixed emotions. I am excited to begin a new chapter in my life and to have more time to spend with family, do some travel and develop a genealogy hobby. However, I will miss the daily interactions with students, faculty and stakeholders and the satisfaction of seeing our graduates go on to successful nursing careers.

I will also miss the challenges of taking on the next visionary endeavor, but I am confident that the College of Nursing will continue to thrive under new leadership.

Looking back, I am filled with gratitude for wonderful colleagues I have had the pleasure to work with and the opportunities and challenges presented to me. Nursing has allowed me to make a difference in the lives of countless patients and to mentor future generations of nurses. What a truly great profession!

CATHERINE TODERO, PHD, BSN'72, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor of Nursing
Vice Provost of Health Sciences Campuses



Join Our Faculty

Creighton nursing is hiring special (temporary) faculty as well as permanent faculty positions on our three campuses. Current open positions are posted on the Creighton Human Resources website, creighton.edu/hr. Click on the "Search Careers" tab. If you have an interest in teaching and want to learn more, please contact Human Resources at 402.280.2709 or hr@creighton.edu.

In addition to faculty positions, we are seeking professionals who can act as and offer preceptorships for our graduate students. For more information about preceptorships, contact Nancy Bredenkamp, PhD, BSN'92, MS'03, APRN-FNP, assistant professor and assistant dean for graduate programs for the College of Nursing, at nbredenkamp@creighton.edu or 402.460.5826.

Dean Todero Retires

Guided historic transformation of Creighton's nursing program

Catherine Todero, PhD, BSN'72, RN, FAAN, dean of the College of Nursing and vice provost of Health Sciences Campuses in Omaha and Phoenix, is laying aside her professional titles and heading into a retirement where the only title that will matter is "Bibi" – conferred by her oldest grandchild and the only name by which her four grandchildren know her.

On Sept. 1, Todero will close a 50-year career in nursing and nursing education, a career that began at Creighton after December 1972 when she graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. From there she held leadership roles at other universities before returning in 2015 to oversee surely the most transformative period in the history of Creighton nursing.



▶ Todero addresses nursing graduates at the 2023 commencement exercises in May.

DAVE WEAVER

Omaha is very much home for Todero. It is where she grew up, where she attended Archbishop Ryan High School, where she played on a curling team, and where she married Joe Todero, BA'65, an accomplished Omaha bagpiper whose affinity for the pipes has enlivened Creighton ceremonial occasions in Nebraska and Phoenix.

The University's commitment to serving central Nebraska received new life during Todero's tenure, when a partnership with Hastings College was relocated to Grand Island's CHI Health St. Francis Hospital. The new "3+1" program allowed Hastings College students and York University, Concordia University and Wayne State College students to add an accelerated Creighton BSN, thereby attaining dual undergraduate degrees.

Launching the Grand Island campus proved prologue to a historic main event – the formalization in 2021 of Creighton's presence in the Southwest through construction of the \$100 million Creighton University Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix. Through a partnership with Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Creighton had earlier established a regional campus in Phoenix for third- and fourth-year medical students, and in 2012 the first cohort had begun clinical training there. In 2018, the College of Nursing launched programs in Phoenix as well.

Under Todero's guidance as vice provost, the new campus, now home to Creighton medical, nursing, pharmacy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and physician assistant students, has become a very visible part of the University's identity in the Southwest and a central feature of a midtown district the city has renamed the Phoenix Medical Quarter.

There have been other milestones during Todero's tenure, including spearheading the donor-supported Center for Faculty, Innovation, Research and Education (FIRE), which strives to improve student and faculty excellence through research, and, most recently, securing \$11.9 million in funding from the state of Arizona that will both enhance the Phoenix campus and provide scholarships for 80 nursing students.

"Dr. Todero has made outstanding contributions to the College of Nursing and the University by setting a high bar for herself and others in the pursuit of excellence," says Amanda Kirkpatrick, PhD, BSN'05, RN, associate professor of nursing and Brooks Scholar.

"Her determination, building on the directive of St. Ignatius to 'go set the world on fire,' resulted in the creation of the Center for Faculty, Innovation, Research and Education, a major initiative that has provided funding for faculty innovation, which indicates her commitment and moral principle in serving others."

The Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, Creighton president, reflected on Todero's career at Creighton.

“We have been so blessed that Dr. Todero was able to change the lives of so many nursing and health sciences professionals through her outstanding leadership.”

THE REV. DANIEL S. HENDRICKSON, SJ, PHD
CREIGHTON PRESIDENT

“Dr. Todero’s contributions to Creighton University cannot be overstated,” he says. “In Grand Island and in Phoenix she was instrumental in growing our campus beyond the physical confines of Omaha and truly making Creighton a nationally recognized name in health sciences education.

“We have been so blessed that Dr. Todero, a Creighton nursing graduate herself, was able to change the lives of so many nursing and health sciences professionals through her outstanding leadership. Hers is a true, full-circle Creighton success story.”

How one of the finest careers from Creighton’s 95-year tradition of nursing education emerged is rooted in the confidence displayed in young Catherine Matousek by her mother, Rita.

“I grew up with my mother saying to me, ‘You are so smart you could be a nurse,’” Todero recalls. “She said that to me a lot. I think it was because she had a sister who was a nurse, and she admired her greatly.”

Todero says she might have become a physician if not for prevailing attitudes at the time about women’s career choices.

“I grew up in that era when women were either nurses or teachers,” she says. “I’m talking, I suppose, about the 1960s. Women in medical school back then were still really quite rare, and I remember thinking at the time, ‘Well, I also want to have a family at some point, and nursing probably is a better pathway.’”

As she approached her 30th birthday in 1981, married with two children and working as a surgical intensive care nurse at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Todero experienced her epiphany that nursing academia was where she wanted to spend the rest of her career.

“I realized that I really loved teaching nursing, and I thought, ‘Wow, nursing and teaching. This is the best of both worlds,’” she says.

The PhD necessary to realize that dream followed, and Todero spent 17 years thereafter as associate dean of nursing at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, five years directing the San Diego State University School of Nursing, and four years as associate dean for nursing and site director of Azusa Pacific University’s branch campus in San Diego.

And then, in 2015, she came home.

It was not obvious that she would do so. She loved San Diego, she says, and could happily have remained there, but the call

of Creighton was strong. “I came back to Omaha because of Creighton. I saw a special opportunity to lead the place that launched me.”

Todero recalls, “When we were graduating from Creighton back in 1972, a nurse friend and I were both kind of full of ourselves, and I said to her that someday I would come back as dean.

“That became kind of a running joke between us, but when I came here to be dean, she said, ‘You did it.’ Well, I did say it, but God made it happen.”

God, of course, has made a lot of things happen at Creighton during the past 145 years.

The presence of a faith component is an important contributor to a Creighton nursing education, Todero says.

“You can talk about the spiritual element here,” she says. “It opens up a whole other element of nursing and really allows you to connect with the entire person, with their whole being.

“I have been affiliated with a lot of really good nursing programs, but when chief nursing officers tell me that Creighton grads are the best nurses they have in their facility, I ask myself why that is.

“I think it is those Jesuit values that get layered on to caring, compassionate nurses, allowing them to connect with people on a whole other plane.”

As she leaves academia, Todero says the great challenge facing Creighton, and institutions of higher education generally, is affordability.

“Creighton provides a great education, but we need to make sure a Creighton education remains affordable,” she says. “For the future, we must be very cognizant of making sure that we don’t price ourselves out of the market. Scholarship support for our students is critical to support the fabulous education that we provide.”

For Todero, the years ahead will involve travel, family genealogy and, of course, her grandchildren, who call her “Bibi,” which happens to be the Swahili word for grandmother.

“I used to ask my grandson if he knew he could speak Swahili before he could speak English?” she says. “My retirement plans include spending much more time with my grandchildren, enjoying their milestones and being the best Bibi I can be.

“My grands have been asking me for years to retire and spend more time with them. I want to do that while I am still relevant in their lives. Now is that time.”



Photo Top: Todero at the official opening of the Creighton University Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix in September 2021.



Photo Middle: Todero and Beth Bartlett, former vice president of patient services at CHI Health St. Francis at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the College of Nursing campus in Grand Island, Nebraska, in January 2021.



Photo Bottom: Todero at the COVID-19 vaccine clinic held on the Creighton Omaha campus in spring 2021. Todero was a regular at the clinic along with other Creighton health sciences students and faculty.

Harper Family Foundation gift creates nationally competitive scholarship to address Nebraska nursing shortage

Future Nursing Leaders



Charles M. "Mike" Harper, HON'95, and his wife, Joan F. "Josie" Bruggema Harper.

A NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM created by one of the largest gifts ever made to Creighton's College of Nursing will help meet a critical need for Nebraska nurses.

The Harper Scholars Nursing Program — established by a \$5.2 million gift from the Harper Family Foundation — is the College of Nursing's first full-tuition scholarship. It will fund the education of 30 nursing students across four cohorts, from their arrival on campus to the day they don their cap and gown.

"Creighton nurses are leaders who advance quickly at the hospitals and clinics where they practice," says Catherine Toderò, PhD, BSN'72, RN, FAAN, dean of the College of Nursing and vice provost of Health Sciences Campuses. "And now, the Harper Scholars program will help us attract top talent and form even more innovative leaders.

"I am grateful to the Harper Family Foundation for creating this program and for the good it will do in the lives of these individual nurses, the countless patients who will benefit from their care and the healthcare systems that will be impacted by their ideas."

The Harper Scholars program seeks to form academically talented students into clinic-ready nurses, through hands-on learning, enrichment opportunities and a curriculum rooted in the Jesuit value of *cura personalis*.

Additional Creighton nurses can't come to Nebraska clinics soon enough. By 2025, the state will face an estimated shortage of nearly 5,500 nurses. Creighton and the Harper Family Foundation seek to address this shortfall by forming future leaders in the field.

The gift will support students' formation from multiple angles: a leadership program led by faculty; a senior fall break trip at the

Institute for Latin American Concern in the Dominican Republic; and a research and travel fund. The gift also creates the position of a program director, who will oversee programming and provide mentorship around research and clinical placement.

The scholarship program's namesakes are the late Charles M. "Mike" Harper, HON'95, and his wife, Joan F. "Josie" Bruggema Harper, who moved their family to Omaha in the 1970s when he became the CEO of Conagra. Josie was a nurse.

The Harper family has long supported the city and University. At Creighton, they have established such initiatives as a freshman leadership scholarship, a scholarship paying tribute to former Creighton president the Rev. Timothy R. Lannon, SJ, BS'73, and of course, the Mike and Josie Harper Center.

Betsy and Chris Murphy (Harper Family Foundation trustees and Mike and Josie's daughter and son-in-law) say the genesis of their gift came from conversations with Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, who told them nothing would make a bigger impact for attracting future nursing leaders than a nationally competitive scholarship.

Mike Harper had a passion for supporting leaders in different ways across different fields. The Harper Scholars Nursing Program — immediately one of the University's most competitive undergraduate scholarships — is an extension of Mike's lifelong search for great leaders. That the search continues in Josie Harper's profession of choice makes it all the more fitting.

The Murphys said if Mike and Josie Harper were here to see "a program in their name that's preparing a new generation of Jesuit-educated nurses to care for Nebraska patients, it would have meant everything to them."

Easing the Mental Health Crisis

NOTHING HAS SOUNDED LOUDER in recent years than warnings about the inadequacy of mental health care in the United States.

The U.S. Senate Committee on Finance in March 2022 produced a report that described the lack of mental health care as "staggering" and a "profound crisis" and stated that Americans wait 11 years on average between the onset of mental health symptoms and receiving first treatment.

The warning has been heeded at Creighton University, where Sara Banzhaf, DNP'17, APRN-NP, assistant professor of nursing, heads a team that is using a \$499,964 grant to increase the number of advanced-practice nurse practitioners in Nebraska who are certified as psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners.

Nurse practitioners, Banzhaf says, present an accessible cohort of healthcare professionals, who, with appropriate psychiatric mental health training, could enhance treatment in the state of Nebraska.

"Having access to more psychiatric health providers within our state and our communities will provide more immediate care," she says. "It is much better to treat people when symptoms are just starting than waiting until they reach a crisis point."

The grant was awarded by the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) under the terms of the American Recovery Plan Act Award Program. Banzhaf's project seeks to increase the number of advanced practice nurse practitioners who are dual-certified as psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners.

Creighton offers a series of postgraduate specialty certificates for nurses who hold advanced practice degrees. Among these is Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, a one-year course that meets eligibility for national certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Equipping existing nurse practitioners with additional expertise in psychiatric mental health makes sense for many reasons, Banzhaf says.

"Individuals entering this program are already nurse practitioners, returning to become a dually certified nurse practitioner," she says. "They already work in their communities, in clinics and in hospitals. They are already trusted providers, so people who already see them for their physical problems will feel comfortable about seeing them for psychiatric mental health care."

Such linkage is an important step in pursuing "integrative care," Banzhaf says.



"Having access to more psychiatric health providers within our state and our communities will provide more immediate care."

SARA BANZHAF, DNP'17, APRN-NP
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NURSING

"Integrative care is the ability of individuals to get both their physical and mental health care needs met by a provider they know and trust," she says. "It also serves to reduce the stigma that still surrounds mental health care. If you're going to your primary care provider, then if a psychiatric mental health care specialty exists within that clinic it just becomes part of your whole healthcare."

The grant will provide scholarships for 15 students and address barriers often

associated with training, including fees, textbook costs and coordination of clinical sites and preceptors.

Banzhaf says Creighton's ongoing partnership with CHI Health proved key to receiving the grant.

The partnership with CHI Health, she says, is an essential component of the grant because it permits coordination of clinical sites, and identification of preceptors, to provide required clinical experiences. These include clinical experiences in working with populations across the lifespan and in various levels of care.

The Creighton initiative follows a model of integrative care that CHI Health has already established throughout Nebraska, Banzhaf says, and adding additional psychiatric mental health providers to that model will enhance access to mental health care, improve efficiencies and better meet the needs of patients and communities throughout the state.

In addition, Banzhaf says, the program will include learning activities to sustain access to services. These include a focus on telehealth, preceptor training and exploring the development of a reflective practice that creates balance, helps manage multiple competing demands and helps find meaning and purpose in professional practice.

Given the availability of the BHECN grant, Creighton's academic partnership with CHI Health, and Creighton's Jesuit, Catholic mission to address the needs of individuals and communities, Banzhaf says she and her team felt called to create a proposal that could increase access by making a measurable and expedited difference in the number of psychiatric mental health providers.

"Psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners provide comprehensive care, which begins with the establishment of a therapeutic interpersonal relationship to understand an individual's unique story and partner with them to establish a plan of care," she says.

"We prescribe and manage medications and integrate evidence-based interventions, including psychotherapeutic modalities, to address the holistic needs of our patients."

For more information about the certificate in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner or other nursing postgraduate certificates, visit creighton.edu/nursing-post-grad-certificate.

\$11.9 million in funding boosts nursing program in Phoenix

Incredible Investment



The Arizona state legislature and the city of Phoenix embraced Creighton University as a central provider of healthcare education in April.

The legislature made what the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, Creighton president, termed an “incredible investment” by awarding \$11.9 million to fund 80 nursing scholarships and complete the sixth floor of the \$100 million Creighton University Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix to benefit nursing education.

The funding recognizes the central role Creighton plays in addressing a nationwide nursing shortage that is particularly impacting the southwest region of the United States as aging Americans retire to warmer states such as Arizona.

The city of Phoenix added its endorsement by declaring that the midtown area where Creighton built its health sciences campus will be designated the Phoenix Medical Quarter, with the goal of building an extensive medical district in coming years.

“Creighton’s commitment to Arizona has been longstanding, and this incredible investment will strengthen our ability

to provide the state with highly trained nurses,” says Fr. Hendrickson. “We feel honored and blessed to be able to help address critical nursing shortages and boost access to care for people across the state of Arizona.”

“We are grateful for this support and the recognition that Creighton’s national reputation for excellence will help to attract some of the best and brightest students to Arizona,” says Catherine Todero, PhD, BSN’72, RN, FAAN, dean of the College of Nursing and vice provost of Health Sciences Campuses.

“By providing exceptional nursing education and meaningful clinical experiences, Creighton is equipping graduates to serve and succeed in Arizona, delivering a significant return on investment for the state,” Todero says.

Helen Hurst, DNP, RNC-OB, APRN-CNM, associate dean of the College of Nursing in Phoenix, says the \$11.9 million in funding will allow the college to potentially double the number of students enrolled in its accelerated 12-month Bachelor of Science in Nursing program beginning in August 2023, from 56 to 112.

“The huge piece is that we now have this money for these scholarships,” she says. “Now, we need to recruit those students and work with our partners to provide them clinical placement.”



▶ Marley Walke, left, and Dylan Sneed work through an obstetrics simulation in the Phoenix campus simulation suite.

ADRIAN BAIRD

“Projected growth in Arizona for nurses in the next 10 to 20 years is 39%. In the rest of the country, it’s only 6%.”

HELEN HURST, DNP, RNC-OB, APRN-CNM
ASSOCIATE DEAN, COLLEGE OF NURSING PHOENIX CAMPUS

A further benefit will be the boost to College of Nursing staffing, which is expected to see the arrival of five more faculty members, including a program manager, clinical coordinator and academic success coordinator.

Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center has been Creighton’s primary clinical placement partner in Phoenix since 2005, and Creighton’s substantial dependence on that relationship remains intact.

The University, however, will reach out to other institutions that have partnered with the Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance. These partners include leading medical and healthcare institutions in the state, all working to enhance medical education, research and the training of new generations of nurses, physicians and allied health professionals.

Hurst, who joined Creighton as associate dean in July 2022, said the funding from the Arizona legislature responded to a

concerted campaign led by Fr. Hendrickson and Dean Todero.

The investment in 80 nursing scholarships hopefully will prove to be the first step in an ongoing relationship with the state of Arizona, Hurst says, given the long-term need to improve healthcare in the Southwest.

The \$11.9 million from the state of Arizona will fund 80 nursing scholarships and complete the sixth floor of the \$100 million Creighton University Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix to benefit nursing education.

“We have an aging population here,” she says. “Projected growth in Arizona for nurses in the next 10 to 20 years is 39%. In the rest of the country, it’s only 6%. At the same time, the average age of a nurse in the United States is over 45 and many nurses have chosen to retire or change their work focus.

“Our accelerated program is so important because you graduate students in a year as opposed to four years, getting them into the workforce more rapidly. They already have a degree in another discipline as well as all the nursing prerequisites, so they are proven learners. It’s a very effective way to quickly get nurses into the workforce.”

In addition to nursing programs, Creighton’s health sciences campus in Phoenix features a four-year medical school and physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assistant and pharmacy programs.

By 2025, the campus will be home to nearly 1,000 health sciences students.

Leading Change Building Standards

Creighton selected as 1 of 10 nursing schools to redesign national nursing evaluations



COLIN CONNORS



The 865-member American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) has chosen Creighton University as one of 10 colleges charged with redesigning and transforming methods of evaluating nursing students across the nation.

Chosen from almost 100 applicants, the Creighton College of Nursing was asked to choose a second focal point for the redesign program, the first being population health, which was chosen by the AACN itself.

College of Nursing leaders chose to include interprofessional education, a teaching concept that stresses the importance of educating all health professions students across the spectrum of disciplines so that they might more easily understand each other's roles and work cooperatively in post-graduation practice.

"We are very excited to be one of the 10 pilot schools and recognize we will learn so much from the new colleagues we meet and the opportunities that we are going to have," says Becky Davis, BSN'00, DNP'13, APHN-BC, assistant professor of nursing at Creighton.

The appointment is accompanied by a \$100,000 grant with work scheduled for completion by March 2025.

The College of Nursing will partner with Creighton's Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (CIPER). The partnership is natural for Creighton, which in recent years has placed great emphasis on interprofessional education.

"We needed a practice partner, and we have the Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research

▶ Nursing faculty members Becky Davis, BSN'00, DNP'13, APHN-BC, left, and Jenny Jessen, EdD, BSN'04, RN, CNOR. Jessen also is director of the Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research.



DAVE WEAVER

right here, so nursing invited CIPER to participate as the practice partner," says Jenny Jessen, EdD, BSN'04, RN, CNOR, who in addition to being an assistant professor of nursing is also executive director of CIPER. "Let's team up to look at how we evaluate nursing students to practice interprofessionally."

The AACN says its goal is to build consistent evaluation standards for nurses, describing its program as Competency-Based Education for Practice-Ready Nurse Graduates.

"Changing how we educate nurses and assess their learning, while engaging practice partners more deeply in this process, is the key to preparing more

practice-ready nurses," says AACN president and chief executive officer Deborah Trautman, PhD, MSN, BSN. "I applaud the 10 schools of nursing selected to participate in this groundbreaking initiative for their commitment to leading change and for sharing their lessons learned and success strategies with nursing schools nationwide."

The enhanced evaluation methods and techniques that will emerge from Creighton's involvement will impact the entirety of nursing education across the nation, Jessen says, because education programs will necessarily evolve in the direction of competency evaluation.

"The 10 pilot schools will ensure that we are evaluating students to make sure they're prepared for practice," Jessen says. "These 10 schools are going to lead that process and mentor other schools and help them develop robust evaluation practices."

Given Creighton's commitment to interprofessional education across its medical, dental, nursing and health sciences spectrum, Jessen says she hopes that the evaluation standards for nursing, once established, might act as the basis for similar standards in other disciplines.

"An exciting thing for CIPER in being the practice partner is that we could potentially take this nursing model and develop it for other health professional programs as a means of evaluating interprofessional skills," Jessen says. "It could apply beyond nursing, because having a robust clinical evaluation of interprofessional learning in all of our health professional programs would be great for Creighton."

1 of 10

The 10 schools selected by the AACN to redesign and transform methods of evaluating nurses are:

- **Creighton University** (Nebraska)
- **Fairfield University** (Connecticut)
- **Johns Hopkins University** (Maryland)
- **Russell Sage College** (New York)
- **Samuel Merritt University** (California)
- **Texas State University** (Texas)
- **University of Southern Mississippi** (Mississippi)
- **University of Texas-Arlington** (Texas)
- **Walla Walla University** (Washington)
- **Wright State University** (Ohio)

▶ **Photo left:** Chelsea Yuu, BSN'21, left, and Lori Rusch, PhD, BSN'97, RN, associate professor of nursing. **Photo right:** Christina Greenhill, BSN'21, left, and Whitney Van De Graaff, BSN'11, MSN, RN, CPN, instructor of nursing.

From Pasadena to Omaha, Nursing Grad Boosts Omaha's 'Brain Gain'

Maggie Gervais, BSN'22, is busily making Omaha and Nebraska a better place by providing general nursing care at CHI Health Immanuel, sometimes crossing over to serve orthopedic and oncology patients.

The presence of this Pasadena, California, native testifies to Creighton's role in the critical process of "brain gain," whereby Omaha and Nebraska benefit from out-of-state students who remain after graduation.

"I just changed my residency over to Nebraska, so I'm no longer a resident of California," Gervais says. "Currently, my plan is to stay in Omaha for at least two to three years. Obviously, I don't know where life is going to take me in that time, but I do plan to stay for quite a while."

Gervais attended Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy, an all-girls Catholic high school in Los Angeles, and is the first student from that high school to attend Creighton.

"When looking at nursing schools, I knew I wanted a direct-entry program that offered me a college experience, that had sports and Greek Life," she says.

It was important to her that it be a faith-based school and one where professors carried a reputation for being closely involved in student progress.

Enter the Creighton College of Nursing.

"My college advisor gave me the name of Creighton, noting that no one from my high school had ever attended there," Gervais says. "But after visiting the campus and Omaha, I absolutely fell in love. I'm still the only one from my high school to attend, but I do Zooms and visits with them hoping that I can get another one to come."

Creighton's Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree fulfilled for Gervais a calling

"In nursing, I engage with patients and their lives, but there's not one day that I don't like to go to work, talk to people and help them."

MAGGIE GERVAIS, BSN'22

she says was evident from an early age, fueled as time went on by a growing love of science and the proud knowledge that her grandfather had been a surgeon.

"I grew up wanting to help people," she says. "My parents tell me that even from a very young age all I wanted to do was help people. I love going to work every single day. There are hard days, obviously. In nursing, I engage with patients and their lives, but there's not one day that I don't like to go to work, talk to people and help them."

Gervais expects to pursue advanced certifications in years to come as she expands and develops her nursing career.

As she does so, she says she will always remember how well things turned out after she became the first in her high school to attend Creighton.

"I loved my professors at Creighton," she says. "They were awesome, and I still keep in contact with them. I try to reach out every couple of months."



JIM FACKLER



DAVE WEAVER

EMS Grad Sets Sights on Becoming Flight Nurse

Creighton has been an integral part of Chris Pritza's family story. His father, Randy Pritza, MD'87, and his mother, Judy Pritza, BSN'92, MS'96, are both graduates, and his mother currently serves as director of Creighton's Parent and Family Program. So, chances were always good that he would find meaning in a healthcare profession, probably through Creighton.

When he graduated in 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Emergency Medical Service, it was no surprise. That milestone boosted his role at the Valley (Nebraska) Fire Department, where he worked the past three years and where, at the age of 23, served as a lieutenant.

Undeterred by the stress of responding to 3 a.m. heart attacks, Pritza has set his sights on becoming a flight nurse on emergency helicopters, perhaps the most stressful calling to which a nurse can be called. That goal moved within reach this August when he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing through the College of Nursing's year-long accelerated program and accepted a position as an RN in the ICU at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center - Bergan Mercy.

"I'm taking both of these skills together so that I can work on a helicopter as a flight nurse," he says. "A flying ICU provides a high

level of care to patients involved, for example, in a bad accident on a highway, and transporting them to a hospital.

"We might fly to a medical facility out in rural Nebraska and transport an extremely sick patient who requires a higher level of care to a hospital here in Omaha."

Pritza says such critical service drew him to paramedicine and now, to nursing.

"Coming from a background of healthcare and caring for people, which is really a background of service and putting others before yourself, EMS called to me," he says. "I went into people's homes to provide the care they needed in one of the worst moments of their lives. When somebody places in you the confidence to call you into their house and to seek your aid, it is a very humbling experience."

A helicopter emergency response team consists of a paramedic and a nurse. Being credentialed in both those disciplines will greatly enhance the quality of care Pritza can provide.

"It is very rewarding work," he says. "I cannot count how many connections I have made through my work at the Valley Fire Department and through the nursing program at Creighton. The connections I've made with professors and classmates will last my whole life, so Creighton has been instrumental in all I am working to achieve."

"I'd like to give back as much as I can to Creighton's paramedicine program," Pritza says. "When I'm not doing classwork, I help with some of the lab work and help teach in the paramedicine program."

"Anything I can do to give back to Creighton I will."



Army ROTC Scholarship Powers Debt-Free Education

Sam Baldwin, BSN'23, graduated in May with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and no college debt whatsoever.

It is a pretty picture, made possible by his involvement in Creighton's Army ROTC, a four-year commitment to post-graduation service as an Army nurse, and by Creighton's generous approach to students with Army ROTC National Scholarships.

ROTC scholarships, Baldwin says, can be used for tuition or room and board. Because Creighton provides free room and board for ROTC scholarship students, those scholarships can be used for tuition.

"That really is the reason that I was able to attend Creighton, because I knew that my tuition would be covered by the Army, and Creighton would cover my room and board," he says. "My college education essentially was free. I graduated from Creighton University with no student debt, which is amazing."

In an era when voices are increasingly heard worrying about the rising cost of higher education, "amazing" seems an apt description.

ROTC scholarships may be free, but they are not unearned. Requirements for high school students include: U.S. citizenship; ages 17 to 26; a high school GPA of at least 2.50; high school diploma or equivalent; submittal of ACT or SAT scores; physical fitness; and an agreement to serve in the Army on active duty or in the Reserves — meaning the Army Reserve or the Army National Guard.

Once at the College of Nursing, Baldwin fully justified the faith placed in him by Creighton and the U.S. Army — not just graduating on time but also receiving the March of Dimes Outstanding Student Award granted to those in a healthcare profession who inspire others above and beyond.

Baldwin, who is from Colorado Springs, Colorado, says he knew from his older sister, Morgan Baldwin, BS'18, who also graduated from Creighton, and from family friends who are Creighton graduates, that a well-rounded education was available at the University and that the nursing and ROTC programs related well to each other.

As for the future, when his four-year military commitment is complete, Baldwin says he would consider renewing his service in the Army.

"The experiences I have had with nursing in the Army have been very positive, and I can see myself making a career out of Army nursing," Baldwin says. "There are so many opportunities, and if the Army isn't what I expect, I know I can choose to work in another kind of healthcare system."

Saving Baby Maddy: When Nursing Gets Personal

As Olivia Koontz, BSN'20, discovered, life can be a mysterious journey.

The native of Westminster, Colorado, who is currently a travel nurse in pediatrics, volunteered to donate a portion of her liver to her ailing sister whose lifelong medical complications had very much touched Koontz's own life experience.

It turned out, after she had waded about 90% of the way through the daunting process of becoming a donor, that the portion Koontz could safely donate was too small. There were, however, two babies at Children's Hospital Colorado, one of whom could very much use that small piece of the life-preserving organ.

So it was that Koontz and 17-month-old Madelyn — Maddy Mae to her family — became, as Koontz describes it in her colorful, touching blog, "liver sliver sisters."

"It's clear in hindsight how the stars were so clearly aligned, and God certainly knew exactly how this was all going to play out," Koontz says.

"I knew the process as a potential donor, but I also knew the side of the family member and how difficult it was to be in the waiting period, waiting for an organ, how difficult that was for our family, and so my thought process was, 'Well, if I can't help my sister, why not stop the waiting for another family?'"

Koontz's journey to earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing began because of Creighton's direct entry nursing program, and because she loves to dance. Having danced her whole life, she sought a nursing school that would allow her to pursue a



▶ Olivia Koontz, BSN'20, reads a card from the parents of her donor recipient, providing updates on the child's progress after surgery, noting that Maddy Mae is growing and flourishing.

SARAH SCHERKOLK

minor in dance, and dance, as it happens, is very much a part of Creighton's Fine and Performing Arts universe.

Though Creighton proved a wide-ranging and comprehensive educational experience involving all areas of nursing, Koontz says she knew all along where her heart lie.

"I've always been passionate about taking care of kids," she says. "I was grateful for the general clinical experience that Creighton provided, but I had known for a long time that I wanted to be a pediatric nurse."

"My sister's health complications started at a very early age, so I had grown up, as a sibling, being around pediatric hospitals a lot. Now that I have experience as a pediatric nurse, I'm just so drawn to it every day. It's a great challenge."

The range of people encountered in pediatric nursing is necessarily wide, she says, given the physical and mental evolution that occurs through infancy, childhood and adolescence.

"The way that I take care of a 17-year-old is very different to how I take care of a 6-month-old," she says. "I have to adapt how I interact based on their age and their developmental status."

And then, there are the parents. "We really take care of the whole family," she says. "A lot of kids are so young that they are not getting a whole lot of the big things that are happening to them, so there's a lot of interaction with the parents."

"I enjoy that part. I'm fortunate to be in a job that I love, that gives me a great sense of purpose every day."

"It's clear in hindsight how the stars were so clearly aligned, and God certainly knew exactly how this was all going to play out."

OLIVIA KOONTZ, BSN'20



DAVE WEAVER

Post-Hospitalization Care for the Homeless Focus of Study

Most people being discharged from a hospital are escorted to an area where a friend or family member provides a trip home.

But what if there are no friends or family members, no home to go to, and your options are life on the street or a homeless shelter that lacks the ability to provide the post-hospitalization care you need?

These were the big questions facing College of Nursing faculty members Cynthia Hadenfeldt, EdD, RN, Martha Todd, PhD, MS'07, APRN-NP, and Chelsea Hamzhie, DNP'19, APRN, FNP-C.

With the aid of a grant from Creighton's Kingfisher Institute, the three began investigating a "medical respite" concept that is gaining traction across the nation and has already seen 133 medical respite programs established across 38 states.

Hadenfeldt visited Arizona, where she toured a 50-bed facility that houses patients

facing post-hospitalization homelessness for two to six weeks while they recuperate.

"They would get regular daily support, assessment by providers and some time to rest," Hadenfeldt says.

Nebraska was not quite there yet, so the trio joined the Omaha metro-area Health and Housing Coalition that is already addressing the issue. They conducted a study for the coalition into how urgent the need for medical respite services was in the Omaha metro area.

Their findings, which were published in the journal *Nursing 2023*, described the plights of hospitals that cannot afford to provide free, long-term hospitalization; social workers desperate to find places for homeless discharges; and the shelters themselves, which are ill-equipped to provide recuperative care. The findings led to the creation of a pilot medical program at Omaha's Siena Francis House, a homeless shelter.

A Charles Drew Health Center mobile

unit now visits Siena Francis several times a week, providing post-hospitalization care to five residents, to be increased to at least 15. The pilot began in August 2022 and will last approximately 24 months with the goal of turning medical respite into a sustainable community service.

"They have already had some 45 requests from hospitals to admit those in need of these recuperative services," Hadenfeldt says.

The Kingfisher Institute support awarded to Hadenfeldt and Todd called for research into the politics of health and healthcare, which proved a perfect vehicle.

"The homeless issue is not just a health issue," Hadenfeldt says. "It can be, but it is a bigger issue. It is a political issue. It is a legislative issue. What are you going to do with individuals experiencing homelessness? How can we support them? How can we help them out of their situation? It is not just a shelter issue. It is an issue for all of us."

▲ From left are Chelsea Hamzhie, DNP'19, APRN, FNP-C; Cynthia Hadenfeldt, EdD, RN; and Martha Todd, PhD, MS'07, APRN-NP.

Getting It Right: Enhancing the Practice of Pharmacogenomics

If your mother ever told you that you were special, chances are she was right.

The idea that people react differently to medications depending on their genetic makeup and their tendency to metabolize medications more quickly, more slowly or perhaps at an entirely standard pace underlies the science of pharmacogenomics.

Trina Walker, DNP'16, APRN, FNP-C, assistant professor of nursing, has assembled an interprofessional team consisting of a nurse practitioner (her), a pharmacist and two physicians who are using a \$15,000 Dr. George F. Haddix President's Faculty Research Fund grant to create and test a pharmacogenomic process with the participation of 20 patients.

The process would streamline the approach for pharmacogenomic testing in primary care, where an interprofessional approach is expected to provide support for providers who may not yet be comfortable with pharmacogenomic test interpretation or may not previously have had the time to engage it.

Pharmacogenomics is not a new concept.

"It is actually quite an old concept," Walker says. "All the way back into the 1950s this was a thing. It helped with development of drugs rather than direct patient management. Since 2015, a majority of the dollars were thrown at oncology because we really want to find better ways to manage cancer and help people live longer."

The success of precision medicine in oncology, however, has encouraged efforts to adopt it in other aspects of healthcare, especially mental health. Insurance companies are beginning to acknowledge the effectiveness of pharmacogenomic testing by paying for it.

Testing, Walker says, involves a simple cheek swab, with results returned in a matter of days.

"I worry about placing a patient with a mental illness on a medication that may not work for four to six weeks, or at all, via the 'one-size-fits-all' approach and then just hoping they follow back up for adjustment if its not effective," she says. "Six months to a year later of trial and error and they may still be awaiting remission."

Walker and her team members are aided in their pharmacogenomic research by guidelines established by the Clinical Pharmacogenomics Implementation Consortium (CPIC), which is affiliated with Stanford University and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Currently, she says, CPIC guidelines are available for more than 50 common medications based upon pharmacogenomic testing results.

The next step for Creighton's pilot program, Walker says, is to publish its findings and then secure funding for a much larger test population.

That, she says, would permit a more diverse analysis of how various races or ethnic groups metabolize medications which can alter guidelines to improve outcomes for all.

"We want to work all the kinks out so that it becomes a model that any clinic could pick up and adapt for its own use," she says.



▲ Trina Walker, DNP'16, APRN, FNP-C, assistant professor of nursing, is helping primary care providers embrace a science that tailors treatment to a patient's genetic profile.



Joan Norris Remembered

FORMER LONGTIME College of Nursing faculty member Joan Norris, PhD, SJN'57, died on June 21, 2023.

When Norris came to Creighton in 1978, she was asked to coordinate the accelerated nursing curriculum in the College of Nursing. Launched in 1979, Creighton's program today is one of the most successful and longest-running accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs in the nation.

For 35 years, Norris dedicated her career to nursing education and mentoring others, serving as a faculty member and associate dean of the graduate program in nursing and associate dean for research and evaluation. Norris retired in 2012 with the rank of professor emerita of nursing.

Norris was a robust researcher and sought answers in her research that have benefitted healthcare in many ways and became national and international diagnostic and care outcome standards.

Her work on how the body reimages itself after major body-image disruptions, including in areas of self-esteem, was at the time groundbreaking.

Her analysis and consultation on a rating scale for care outcomes was instrumental in the development of one of the first standardized terminologies to support nursing practice and a tool designed to enhance practice, documentation and information management. Physicians and nurses rely on the Problem Rating Scale for Outcomes, which evolved into the Omaha System, now used internationally.

Norris also helped colleagues with grant writing and finding funding sources and worked with faculty to develop their own scholarly activities and research.

"Joan Norris had a quiet, yet profound presence to those all around her," says Mary Kunes-Connell, PhD, BSN'77, RN, professor of nursing and associate dean for academics, assessment and accreditation. "She never sought glory or accolades. Rather, she was like a producer behind the scenes of a great movie. She understood the talents of the faculty she worked with and quietly 'nudged' them to challenge themselves."

Faculty Scholarship

July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022

Fuji, K.T., **Abbott, A.A.**, Galt, K.A. (2021). A Mixed Methods Evaluation of Standalone Personal Health Record Use by Patients with Type 2 Diabetes, *Perspectives in Health Information Management*, American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), 18(4), 1-16e.

Ball, S., Hanks, J., Potthoff, M., Connelly, S. (2021). A Pediatric Telehealth Simulation for Prelicensure and Advanced Practice Nursing Students, *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 42(6), E181-E182.

Mandaira, G.S., Akhter, M.P., Esmonde-White, F.W.L., **Lappe, J.M.**, Bare, S.P., Lloyd, W.R., Long, J.P., Lopez, J., Kozloff, K.M., Recker, R.R., Michael, D., Morris, M.D. (2021). Altered Collagen Chemical Compositional Structure in Osteopenic Women with Past Fractures: A Case-Control Raman Spectroscopic Study, *Bone*, 148.

Manz, J., Tracy, M., Hercinger, M., Todd, M., Iverson, L., Hawkins, K. (2021). Assessing Competency: An Integrative Review of the Creighton Simulation Evaluation Instrument (C-SEI) and Creighton Competency Evaluation Instrument (C-CEI), *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*, 66, 66-75.

Cole, M., Kupzyk, K., Mack, L., **Lappe, J.**, Bilek, L. (2021). Bone-Loading Exercises Versus Risedronate for the Prevention of Osteoporosis in Postmenopausal Women with Low Bone Mass, *Osteoporosis International*, 33(2), 475-486.

Grgic, O., Gazzara, M., Chesi, A., Medina-Gomez, C., Cousminer, D., Mitchell, J., Prijatelj, V., Shevroja, E., McCormack, S., Kalkwarf, H., **Lappe, J.**, Gilsanz, V., Oberfeld, S., Shepherd, J., Kelly, A., Fauz, F., Felix, J., Vincent, W., Feelders, R., de Jong, F., Uitterlinden, A., Visser, J., Ghanem, L., Wolvius, E., Hofland, L., Stratakis, C., Zemel, B., Barash, Y., Grant, S., Rivadeneira, F. (2021). CYP11B1 Variants Influence Skeletal Maturation Via Alternative Splicing, *Communications Biology*, 4(1), 1274.

Goodman, J., Landgren, A. (2021). Escape into a Nursing Career: An Active Recruitment Strategy for Prospective Students, *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 42(6), E147-148.

Flores, L., Nelson, S., Waltman, N., Kupzyk, K., **Lappe, J.**, Mack, L., Bilek, L. (2021). Examining Effects of Habitual Physical Activity and Body Composition on Bone Structure in Early Post-Menopausal Women: A pQCT Analysis, *Osteoporosis International*, 33(2), 425-433.

Jizba, T.A., Baumert, J.M., Miller, J., Barnason, S. (2021). Implanted Port Access in the Emergency Department: A Unit-Level Feasibility Study of a Nurse-Led Port Access Algorithm, *Journal of Emergency Nursing*, 47(4), 599-608.

Williams, J., Selig, C., Aufdenkamp, M., Young, C., Hirsch, K. (2021). Nursing Students' Perceptions of Staff Nurse Instructors' Characteristics in a Dedicated Education Unit, *Journal of Nursing Education*, 60(8), 459-461.

Goetz, T., Nair, N., Shiau, S., Recker, R., **Lappe, J.**, Dempster, D., Zhou, H., Zhao, B., Guo, X., Shen, W., Nickolas, T., Kamanda-Kosseh, M., Bucovsky, M., Stubby, J., Shane, E., Cohen, A. (2021). In Premenopausal Women with Idiopathic Osteoporosis, Lower Bone Formation Rate is Associated with Higher Body Fat and Higher IGF-1, *Osteoporosis International*, 33(3): 659-672.

Young, C., Hercinger, M., Ball, S., Goodman, J., Flott, E. (2021). Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Laboratory, *Nurse Educator*, 46(4).

Genua, J. (2021). The Grading of Reflective Journals and Student Honesty in Reflective Journal Writing, *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 42(4), 227-231.

Oliver, T.L., Clarke, M.A., Fruhling, A.L., Lyden, E.L., Tarrell, A.E., Bernard, T.L., Windle, J.R. (2021). The Role of Computer Skills in Personal Health Record Adoption Among Patients with Heart Disease: Multidimensional Evaluation of Users Versus Nonusers, *JMIR Medical Informatics*, 8(3), e19191.

Young, C., Ball, S., Goodman, J., Flott, E., Hercinger, M. (2021). Threading QSEN Competencies Across a Baccalaureate Nursing Program: Development of Dedicated QSEN Labs, *Journal of Nursing Education*, 60(9), 526-528.

McCafferty, K., Flott, E., Hadenfeldt, C. (2021). Using Augmented Reality to Foster Clinical Readiness and Critical Thinking, *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 43(3), 181-183.

Manz, J., Iverson, L., Tracy, M., Hercinger, M., Todd, M. (2022). Assessing Student Performance in a Dedicated Education Unit, *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 43(3), 184-186.

Kirkpatrick, A.J., Thinnas, A.M., **Selig, C.L.**, Chapple, H.S., **Iverson, L.M.**, Nystrom, K.K., **Shirley, N., Hercinger, M.**, Jorgensen, D., Janky, G.O., Baumberger, B.F., Pick, A. (2022). Building Interprofessional Team Competence Through Online Synchronous Simulation of Palliative Care Scenarios, *Journal of Interprofessional Education & Practice*, 27 (June 2022, 100512).

Shin, J., Jewell, V.D., **Abbott, A.A.**, Russell, M., Carlson, K., Gordon, M. (2022). Fidelity Protocol for a Telehealth Type 1 Diabetes Occupation-Based Coaching Intervention, *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 89(2), 159-169.

Flott, E., Ball, S., Hanks, J., Minnich, M., Kirkpatrick, M., Rusch, L., Koziol, D., Laughlin, A., Williams, J. (2022). Fostering Collaborative Learning and Leadership Through Peer Mentorship Among Undergraduate Nursing Students, *Nursing Forum*, 57(5), 750-755.

Burch, A.L. (2022). Fracture Care in Older Adults: Preparing for Certification, *MEDSURG Nursing*, 31(1), 59-60.

Rubarth, L., Hudak, M. (2022). NP-Neonatal, *StatPearls.com* (online).

Laughlin, A., Schwartz, M., Van De Graaff, W., Hanks, J., Synowiecki, B., Connelly, S. (2022). Prehypertension, Hypertension and the Risk Factors in School-Age Children: An Exploratory Study, *International Journal of Nursing and Health Care Science*, 2(6), 102-122.

Rubarth, L. (2022). Nurse-Neonatal Intensive Care, *StatPearls.com* (online).

Begley, K., Aden, M., Johnson, L., Patterson, A., Pick, A., Ryan Haddad, A., Sedillo, T., **Todd, M.** (2022). Student Perceptions of an Interprofessional Short Course Designed to Increase Awareness of Human Trafficking, *Journal of Allied Health*, 5(2), e353-357.

Fuji, K.T., Galt, K.A., **Abbott, A.A.**, Bramble, J.D., Paschal, K.A., Siracuse, M.V., Kaufman, T. (2022). What's in the Secret Sauce? A Recipe for Leadership Skills Development in an Interprofessional Health Services Research Team, *Challenges and Opportunities in Healthcare Leadership: Voices from the Crowd in Today's Complex and Interprofessional Healthcare Environment*, 155-176, Information Age Publishing.

Names in bold denote Creighton University College of Nursing faculty.



Kirkpatrick Recipient of University Teaching Award

AMANDA KIRKPATRICK, PHD, BSN'05, RN, associate professor of nursing and Brooks Scholar, received the 2023 Distinguished Educator in Teaching as Scholarship Award at the University's Founders Week Convocation in February.

Kirkpatrick was recognized for her distinguished record of teaching and scholarship of teaching and learning at Creighton, nationally and internationally. In the last decade, she has received 12 awards recognizing her accomplishments, including the College of Nursing's Teaching Excellence Award. Her focus has been on research, development and implementation of teaching and learning strategies that instruct students in palliative care.

Kirkpatrick is an innovator in teaching strategies, including simulations that bring together undergraduate and graduate nursing students to assist in their learning. She also has developed faculty resources that allowed the College of Nursing to expand enrollment, as well as support faculty and students.

Kirkpatrick is pictured with the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, Creighton president.

Faculty Highlights

> **Amy Abbott, PhD, BSN'92, MS'98, RN**, associate professor of nursing, received the Outstanding Nursing Educator award from the Nebraska Nurses Association in October 2022. The award focuses on achievement by a nurse whose primary role is as an educator. The nominee must be directly involved in patient education, nursing education, continuing education or staff development. The award recognizes innovation and expertise in the educator role.

> **Ryan Batenhorst, MEd, NRP**, clinical instructor and paramedicine program director in the College of Nursing Department of Paramedicine, has been appointed to the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services. His term runs through Dec. 1, 2026.

> **Amanda Kirkpatrick, PhD, BSN'05, RN**, associate professor of nursing and Brooks Scholar, College of Nursing FIRE Initiative 2021-2024, has been named an International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL) Excellence Award Winner. Kirkpatrick has developed an extensive portfolio of simulated clinical activities related to palliative care. She was presented the award at INACSL's conference in Milwaukee.

> **Jennifer Jessen, EdD, BSN'04, RN, CNOR**, assistant professor of nursing and director of the Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (CIPER), was the recipient of the 2022 Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award from the American Interprofessional Health Collaborative (AIHC). This award recognizes a faculty member for outstanding mentorship of students and/or peers in interprofessional education and/or practice.

> **Meghan Potthoff, PhD, BSN'01, APRN-NP**, associate professor of nursing and Keough Family Endowed Chair, was chosen for the 2022-2024 Early Career Investigator Program (ECIP) through the UNMC Great Plains IDeA Clinical Translational Research Center. The goal of the NIH-funded ECIP is to support early research career faculty by helping them develop a competitive NIH grant or equivalent research career development application. Awardees were selected based on their vision and potential for unique contributions to clinical and translational research.

> College of Nursing faculty members **Trevor Woodward, MSN, RN, PED-BC**, and **Willie Carpenter, MSN, RN**, were honored by the Nebraska Nurses Association with the Positive Image of Nursing Award 2023. The Positive Image of Nursing Award is a recognition and award program facilitated by the Nebraska Nurses Association to commemorate National Nurses Week.



Son Honors Mother's Devotion to Nursing Profession

Inside the College of Nursing, within a simulation lab where students practice their healing art on manikins and actors, sits a debriefing room that will cause future students to ask: Who was Rita J. Zeld?

The plaque outside the room tells the story in the perfunctory manner of plaques:

"Named in memory of Rita J. Zeld, St. Catherine's School of Nursing '65, recognizing her 54 years of service to her patients and their families."

The more than 50 years of nursing that underlie those brief 25 words are a story of service to people and to a profession that Jeff Zeld, BSBA'92, MBA'93, JD'00, wanted preserved. He embraced a philanthropic naming opportunity to sponsor the room in memory of his mother, who graduated from then-Creighton-affiliated St. Catherine's School of Nursing in 1965.

Today Zeld is associate dean for operations at the College of Nursing.

"She had a passion and a commitment to nursing, which was her love and her life," he says of his mother. "Service was very important to her, so I wanted there to be a legacy of all that she had done for patients in her community."

Rita died Jan. 13 at the age of 78, and so did not live to see the plaque, though Zeld and his father, Dwain Zeld, will tour the space later this year.

Rita served the Nebraska community of Schuyler, becoming a fixture at CHI Health Schuyler Memorial Hospital as she cared for generations of families. She received the Caring Kind award for Employee of the Year from the Nebraska Hospital Association in 1989, and in 2015 received the Positive Image of Nursing Award for her dedication to patient care.

In 2018 she became the longest tenured employee of CHI Health Schuyler, serving in many roles including bedside patient care, infectious disease and surgery as well as spending 30 years as the lead nurse in operating and emergency services.

"There were few roles she didn't do in her career, and she loved them all," Zeld wrote in his mother's obituary. "She would always say that in a small hospital you do what needs to be done."

"Service was very important to her, so I wanted there to be a legacy of all that she had done for patients in her community."

JEFF ZELD, BSBA'92, MBA'93, JD'00



After More Than 40 Years, Adams is Heart and Soul of College of Nursing

Cindy Adams, BSBA'98, lived through the revolution.

She was contentedly composing letters on typewriters when Steve Jobs and Bill Gates roiled the sedate pace of academia with their desktop computers.

During the more than 40 years since, after first taking up her post as assistant to the dean of the College of Nursing in 1980, Adams has been a fixture at the college. She has helped generations of students submit their RN licensure applications, watching them grow from wide-eyed youngsters barely beyond adolescence into confident adult professionals, and, of course, mastering a succession of new software programs that remain an ongoing feature of the digital revolution.

"I have worked at the College of Nursing for 42 years under the leadership of five deans and two interim deans," she says. "In that time, I have felt a part of something wonderful — the mission of Creighton University.

"I am a small drop in an ocean, so there is nothing special I have done, but what I have enjoyed is the sharing of kindness, knowledge, spirituality and the giving of oneself. This is something I think we all do at Creighton."

A native of Iowa, where she still lives, Adams is a Creighton graduate, as is her husband, Rex Adams, BS'96, and an Army kid who knew almost nothing of Creighton when she applied for the College of Nursing job. She has served under seven deans or interim deans, starting with Sheila Ciciulla, EdD, SJN'53, BSN'55, MSEDU'77, and progressing through Sheila Ryan, PhD, SJN'67, RN, FAAN; Shirley Dooling, EdD, RN;

"What I have enjoyed is the sharing of kindness, knowledge, spirituality and the giving of oneself. This is something I think we all do at Creighton."

CINDY ADAMS, BSBA'98

Edeth Kitchens, PhD, RN; Eleanor Howell, PhD, RN; Cindy Costanzo, PhD, RN, FNAP; and current dean, Catherine Todero, PhD, BSN'72, RN, FAAN.

Todero says Adams has been key to the smooth functioning of the college.

"For decades Cindy has been an essential key to making sure things get done right in the College of Nursing," she says. "Cindy knows almost everyone on campus and virtually every process or procedure. She is the 'nerve center' for the college, and almost

everything travels through her. She lives the Jesuit values of being in service to others, doing not only her job well but helping others with their jobs too."

In 1980, though, the newly arrived Adams was at the beginning of a long learning curve.

"I didn't know anything about Creighton," she says. "But the dean I interviewed with, Sheila Ciciulla, was such a nice person, I just immediately liked it here.

"It has been wonderful to see Creighton's campus grow and become so beautiful. People might say, 'Gosh! She's been in the same place and hasn't changed.' But change

is constant in an educational institution. Responsibilities are always being added. I have never been bored. I am very much at home here."

In recognition of her dedicated service and commitment to Creighton and the College of Nursing, Adams was recognized as the 2023 recipient of the Distinguished Service Administrator Award presented at the University's Founders Week Convocation in February.

College of Nursing Alumni Advisory Board

Todd Bartholet, BS'94, BSN'97
President | Bennington, Nebraska

Mackenzie Findley Barnard, DNP'12
Omaha

Ann Malone Berger, PhD, BSN'71
Omaha

Katie Frost Circo, BSN'07
Omaha

Susan de la Serna Drvol, BSN'95
Bennington, Nebraska

Sara Seifert Ermer, BSN'14, DNP'18
Ex-Officio | Kansas City, Missouri

Patricia Costello Fenton, BSN'80
Ex-Officio | Plano, Texas

Theresa Franco, BSN'78
Ex-Officio | Omaha

Anne Gard, BSN'03
Ex-Officio | Chicago

Elizabeth Worthington Gard, BSN'08
Omaha

Diane Glow, BSN'80
President's Council | Omaha

Julie Wilwerding Gortemaker, BSN'06
Grand Island, Nebraska

Kim Ryan Hagner, BSN'04, MS'08
Omaha

Susana Harrington, MS'99
Omaha

Megan Ryan Hawk, BSN'00
Omaha

Kimberly McQuillan Huffman, BSN'08
Lakewood, Colorado

Rebecca Gurnett Jizba, BSN'10
Omaha

Dede Meyer Johnson, BSN'74
President's Council | Omaha

Molly Millea Kennison, BSN'10
Omaha

Suzanne Ganzhorn Kotula, BSN'85
Ex-Officio | Omaha

Nancy Mehmert Lakier, BSN'75
Emeritus | Poway, California

Rachel Lillis Lawlor, BSN'06
Bismarck, North Dakota

Mary Neppel Leighton, BSN'71
Ex-Officio | Omaha

Emily Schultz Lemke, BSN'10, DNP'15
Ex-Officio | Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

Jenna Cheese Lowndes, BSN'09
Ex-Officio | Omaha

Jane Harrington Masterson, SJN'72
Ex-Officio | Centennial, Colorado

Kathryn Williams Melton, BSN'74
Reseda, California

Diane Cavanaugh Millea, BSN'77, DNP'11
President's Council | Omaha

Emily Greisch Mohs, BSN'07
Omaha

Megan Packer Morgan, DNP'17
Chandler, Arizona

Christopher Morrow, BSN'17
Omaha

Barb O'Brien, SCN'70
Omaha

Elizabeth Davis O'Dwyer, BSN'08
Denver

Catherine Adam Pajnigar, BSN'99
La Vista, Nebraska

Teresa Pallus, BSN'09
Omaha

Barbara Kohorst Pille, SJN'72
Basehor, Kansas

Ellen Bengge Poole, BSN'73
Glendale, Arizona

Judy Richmeier Pritza, BSN'92, MS'96
President's Council | Omaha

Cathy Reynek Ravenstahl, BSN'78
Ex-Officio | Omaha

Erin Ryan, BSN'01
Omaha

Timothy Ryan, BSN'04, DNP'07
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Tonya Smith Schroeder, BSN'86
Valley, Nebraska

Kathy Clark Sibbersen, BSN'82
Ex-Officio | Omaha

Kathy Keough Soto, BSN'75
Ex-Officio | Leander, Texas

Nancy Tosone, BSN'75, DNP'11
Omaha

Ellen Townley, BSN'83
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Maureen Kuffel Turner, BSN'74
President's Council | Omaha

Eileen Barr Van Tassell, BSN'68
President's Council | Kansas City, Missouri

LeAnne Vitito, BSN'93, MS'00
President's Council | Omaha

Kathy Wolter, BSN'83
Ex-Officio | Bellevue, Nebraska



In Remembrance

**Barbara
Braden, PhD,
SJN'66, BSN'73**

Creighton University and the College of Nursing mourn the loss of alumna Barbara Braden, PhD, SJN'66, BSN'73, who died on June 24.

Braden leaves a legacy of extraordinary accomplishment, significant contributions to healthcare and distinguished service as a faculty member, researcher and administrator at Creighton.

Braden began her Creighton career as assistant professor in medical surgical nursing in the College of Nursing in 1975. She was named interim academic vice president in 2002, and was also named dean of the Graduate School (1995-2006) and the College of Professional Studies (2002-2011). Braden retired from Creighton in 2011, after 37 years as a faculty member and administrator.

Through consistent, excellent and sustained scholarship, Braden established an international reputation as a researcher of the first rank, which placed her among those who can say that their contributions to the field have improved the quality of life of literally millions of people.

Braden developed a tool to assess the risk for skin breakdown in elderly and bedridden patients, to reduce the pain, suffering and expense associated with patient care. The assessment tool she introduced in 1987 – known worldwide as the Braden Scale – incorporated diverse risk factors under broad concepts that combined ease of use with accuracy in prediction in all levels of healthcare facilities. Its success was immediate and indisputable, and it was readily implemented in hospitals, home care agencies and nursing homes nationally and internationally.

In addition to numerous national and international honors throughout her career, Braden was the recipient of the College of Nursing Alumni Merit Award in 1989 and the Alumni Achievement Citation – Creighton's highest alumni honor – in 2013.

To honor her memory, an endowed nursing scholarship has been established in her name. Visit creighton.edu/braden-scholarship to make a gift to the Braden Endowed Scholarship.

