About the School of Nursing

The SIUE School of Nursing's mission is that students and faculty embody the creativity to teach, the curiosity to learn, the courage to serve, and the compassion to care for others in this diverse and complex world, forever exemplifying nursing excellence in action!

The School is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), the gold standard for baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs. The Certified Nurse Anesthesia program is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education (COA) Program.

Message from the Provost

The School of Nursing is committed to keeping pace with the rapidly evolving health care environment. When the Institute of Medicine recommended 80 percent of all nurses have bachelor’s degrees by 2020, the School created the online, accelerated RN to BS degree option. To meet rising demand for primary medical care due to the Affordable Care Act, the School’s WE CARE nursing clinic evolved to provide quality services focused on health promotion and disease prevention to a vulnerable community. The changing health care environment also requires students be prepared to practice in an interprofessional environment. To that end, the SIUE Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy and Dental Medicine collaborated on a medical error disclosure simulation event.

These examples highlight the School’s ability to respond to a rapidly changing healthcare environment and further demonstrate SIUE’s commitments to continuous improvement and innovation, to high-quality learning within and beyond the classroom, and to partnerships and collaborations that prepare students to make a significant impact on communities they serve.

Parviz Ansari, PhD
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
About SIUE

SIUE is a public university offering a broad choice of degrees and programs ranging from liberal arts to professional studies. Undergraduate and graduate degrees are offered in the arts and sciences, business, education, engineering and nursing. Professional degrees are available in dental medicine and pharmacy. Nearly 14,000 students choose SIUE for the enlightening programs, engaging faculty and convenient location just 25 minutes from St. Louis.

Message from the Interim Dean

The SIUE School of Nursing has had another productive, successful year. Undergraduate programs on the Edwardsville campus and the regional campus in Carbondale remain at full capacity, and our accelerated bachelor’s in nursing program continues to attract a full cohort.

We completed our first full year of the completely online, accelerated RN to BS program and experienced a 300 percent increase in enrollment. In addition, we now have corporate partnerships with two major, regional healthcare systems, SSM Health and Hospital Sisters Health Systems (HSHS).

This year, we received approval to transition two of our master’s programs, the nurse anesthesia program and the family nurse practitioner program, into doctoral programs. During this upcoming year, we expect to have final approval for a dual degree, online MBA/DNP program to serve the needs of nurses with master’s degrees seeking leadership roles.

We are now ranked among the top 25 percent of nursing graduate schools in the U.S. News & World Report 2016 edition of Best Graduate Schools. This is the first time the School has made this particular rating, which is based on student selectivity and achievement, faculty resources, and research activity. Of the 503 schools surveyed, we ranked 122. The School also received the 2014 Arcus Award for Achievement in Educational Attainment from the St. Louis Regional Chamber of Commerce for our accelerated RN to BS program.

In July 2014, the School received a Health Resources and Services Administration Nursing Workforce Diversity Program grant totaling $997,076 over three years to support our Student Nurse Achievement Program (SNAP). This summer, we received the renewal award for this grant for the second of three years. The program continues to thrive as we currently have 76 SNAP undergraduate students enrolled. We are very proud of the SNAP program and its positive impact on increasing the numbers of diverse professional nurses in the workforce.

The School’s WE CARE Clinic in East St. Louis has seen a 28 percent increase in patient visits and has secured significant new partnerships and approvals. It is now the designated school clinic for the SIUE Charter High School and is approved to perform Social Security disability assessments. We also obtained agreements with the SIUE Early Childhood Development Center and the Migrant Head Start program to conduct services such as physicals, screenings and immunizations.

In April 2016, we will celebrate the successful completion of the School’s first endowed scholarship campaign, “Honoring the Past and Empowering the Future” at a special recognition gala. Turn to page four to read more.

With the dedicated support of our alumni, agency and community partners, and University community, our School is able to continue preparing nurse clinicians, administrators, educators and leaders who make significant health care advances for our region and beyond. On behalf of the School, students, faculty and staff, I extend heartfelt appreciation for your support.

Sincerely,

Laura Bernaix, PhD, RN
Interim Dean
Programs Change to Keep Pace with Evolving Field of Healthcare

To meet the growing need for nursing leaders, two of the School of Nursing’s programs transitioned from master’s degrees to doctor of nursing practice (DNP) programs, and a new dual MBA/DNP program was created.

“The demand for these degrees has skyrocketed,” said Dr. Kathy Ketchum, assistant dean for graduate programs. “People are choosing the DNP over a master’s or a PhD because the degree focuses on using existing research to improve the quality of care for patients, families and communities.”

Nurse Anesthesia DNP

In May, SIUE became the first higher education institution in the St. Louis metropolitan area to offer a doctoral degree in nurse anesthesia (NA DNP). The NA DNP is offered full-time over nine semesters and prepares registered nurses with baccalaureate degrees to provide individualized anesthetic patient care for diagnostic, therapeutic or pain management procedures.

Family Nurse Practitioner DNP

The family nurse practitioner master’s program transitioned to a doctor of nursing degree with a family nurse practitioner specialization (FNP DNP) in August 2015. The FNP DNP consists of eight semesters of full-time coursework with an addition of only 12 credits more than the master’s degree, and the majority of courses are delivered in a hybrid format – online and face-to-face.

MBA/DNP

Another exciting new DNP program is the dual MBA/DNP program offered by the Schools of Nursing and Business. Student admittance is planned for summer 2016. An MBA/DNP will substantially improve the skill set of nursing executives by providing master’s prepared nurses with advanced scholarly knowledge, political awareness and financial management skills.

“Doctoral degrees offer our students added credentials that translate into better outcomes for their patients and additional career paths for them—from hospital administration to entrepreneurs to teachers,” Ketchum said.
With its unique online immersion and information technology support staff, the School’s accelerated RN to BS program has experienced a 300 percent increase in enrollment since it began January 2014. The program is designed for graduates of associate degree and diploma nursing programs and is offered in a completely online, part-time format. This efficient and effective program is meeting the region’s need for baccalaureate-prepared nurses, as well as the needs of working RNs.

Since initially launching the online program, the School has entered into partnerships with both SSM Health and Hospital Sisters Health Systems (HSHS) to deliver advanced educational opportunities for the systems’ nurses in 33 hospitals throughout Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and Oklahoma.

“These health systems see the value of offering a program that is online, accelerated and student-friendly,” said Dr. Roberta Harrison, assistant dean for undergraduate programs. “We do everything we can to make this a smooth experience for our RNs who are often coming back to school after five or more years of being out in the workforce. We provide tools, support and flexibility to help them succeed, and our faculty have done an outstanding job of reaching out to the students.”

The partnerships allow SSM and HSHS RNs to maximize their tuition reimbursement benefits while pursuing an affordable and progressive online program.

“The logistics are handled between the healthcare system and the School, so the students can really focus on their coursework,” Dr. Rebecca Luebbert, assistant professor of primary care and health systems nursing and RN to BS program coordinator. “We’re hearing great feedback from the students who say it is a truly seamless process.”

In February, the School was recognized for its partnership with SSM when the St. Louis Regional Chamber awarded it an Arcus Award for Achievement in Educational Attainment. The award, presented by RubinBrown LLP, specifically honored the School’s promotion of college degree attainment and improvement of educational outcomes. Arcus Awards celebrate the achievement of organizations that are making St. Louis a more attractive place to live, work and invest.
Empowering the Future of Nursing

Alumni, faculty and friends of the SIUE School of Nursing are enthusiastically stepping forward to champion the School’s first endowed scholarship campaign. The “Honoring the Past - Empowering the Future” Campaign celebrates the past 50 years and prepares for the next 50 years of excellence for the School.

“The gift of giving is the most rewarding feeling, especially when you know how much it helps someone else,” said Cody Gowler, BSN ’09, clinical nurse manager for BJC HealthCare in St. Louis.

By supporting the campaign, donors have the opportunity to help the next generation of healthcare leaders. Throughout the campaign, alumni, faculty and friends will be rallying to raise $100,000 to fund scholarships for deserving undergraduate and graduate nursing students.

As a premier nursing school, SIUE is working to meet the high demand for qualified professionals. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of registered nurses is projected to grow 19 percent from 2012-2022, faster than the average for all occupations. In order to meet job market demands, it is important to attract, retain and support today’s nursing students.

“Each of us in our own way can make a commitment through current and/or future contributions to provide funding for promising young nursing students through educational support and scholarships,” said Saundra Spilotro, BSN ’69, former home health and hospice executive.

Influenced by the desire to make a difference, Gowler and Spilotro have volunteered to co-chair this year’s endowment campaign. Both alums fondly remember how their time at SIUE inspired them to “pay it forward” and empower other nursing professionals.

“Throughout our careers we are able to serve our patients’ needs, but we do not always have the opportunity to serve those working beside us,” Gowler said. “I encourage everyone to support the university that has paved the way to your career by making a gift that will support the future of your profession.”

On April 16, 2016, alumni, faculty and friends of the School will come together to celebrate the successful completion of this endowment campaign. A special recognition gala at the St. Louis Zoo Living World will honor donors and alumni, and celebrate the past and future 50 years of nursing excellence at SIUE. To be included in this campaign and celebration, visit siue.edu/nursing/giving, or mail a gift using the envelope provided.
Scholarship Recipients

Ann Heiden Wharton Memorial Nursing Award
Umani Carter

Anthony Oliver & Felissa Lashley Award in Nursing
Lindsay Murray

C. Harold Goddard Scholarship for Nursing
Bailey Wynn

Cecil H. Griffin & Florence B. Griffin Award
Hannah Hughes

Chancellor Sam Goldman Scholarship for Nursing Excellence
Monique Glenn

Dr. Jacquelyn M. Clement Scholarship in Nursing
Rachel Heft

Gloria Perry RN-BSN Student Achievement Award
Katrina Cordova

Janet N. Rarick Scholarship for Nursing
Letecia Jones

Janice M. Bloomfield Memorial Award
Kathryn Henry

Nightingale Nursing Scholarship
Abby Dooley

Nursing Alumni Heritage Award
Rachel Tinge
Dalton Whetsell

Nursing Gems of 2009 Award
Segun (Victor) Sulaimon

Outstanding Student in Nursing
Adeyinka Babatunda
Kaleigh George
Lacie Kelley

Pearl Morgan Award in Pediatric Nursing
Abbey Beardsley

Perry Graduate Excellence Award in Nursing
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Pre-Clinical Nursing Student Scholarship
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The Winston Family Scholarship for Nursing (SNAP)
Maria Carrillo-Quijano
Forrest McClellan

“Receiving the Winston Scholarship award has motivated me to keep pressing forward and to get more involved in the School. It affirms that I am obviously doing something right by choosing this program.”
Forrest McClellan, sophomore, Freeport
Lab Annex Enhances Learning

Formerly a lounge where students went to relax, study, or access printers and computers, the space across from the SIUE School of Nursing’s Simulation Learning Center for Health Sciences has been transformed into a lab annex.

“With as many students as we have, we definitely needed space where students who are learning new techniques could practice in a simulated environment,” said Dr. Roberta Harrison, assistant dean for undergraduate programs. “That’s where the idea of a lab annex took shape.”

The annex offers a simulation mannequin and an array of equipment that provides students the opportunity to practice, even when classes occupy the main lab. This has proven especially helpful for nursing anesthesia students.

“Anesthesia training is procedural in nature,” said Dr. Andrew Griffin, director of nurse anesthesia. “This spring, our first-year students were in the annex almost daily preparing for their clinical rotations. The annex definitely increased technical practice time for our students much more than we anticipated.”

Funding to create the lab annex was provided locally through the University.
Recognizing our Donors

Thank you to the following donors for their fiscal year 2015 gifts. With your generous support, the School of Nursing is able to continue helping our students strive for academic excellence and make advancements in the field of nursing. No matter how sizable the donation, you are making a difference for all SIUE nursing students.

For more information on how to give to the SIUE School of Nursing, please visit siue.edu/nursing/giving or contact Patricia McDonald at pmcdona@siue.edu or 618-650-3906.

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Faculty Presentations

**Dr. Mary Lee Barron**

**Dr. Rhonda Comrie**
Comrie, R. (2015) An innovative program to target culturally competent communication for students in nursing and pharmacy programs. MNRS 2015 Annual Research Conference. Indianapolis, IN

**Dr. Chris Durbin**

**Dr. Kay Gaehle**

**Ms. Lisa Green**

**Dr. Andrew Griffin**
Griffin, A.T. (2015). Describing the meanings of the lived spiritual experiences of patients transitioning through major outpatient surgery. Presentation at Memorial Medical Center’s 21st Annual Research Conference, Springfield, IL

**Dr. Valerie Griffin**

**Mr. Osvaldo Hunter**
Dr. Debra Jenkins


Dr. Rebecca Luebbert


Dr. Frank Lyerla


Ms. Vivian Marks

Marks, V. (2014). Use of simulation in nurse practitioner education and mental health resources in medically underserved area. Presentation at the 8th Bi-Annual International Council of Nurses-Advanced Practice Nurse Network conference in Helsinki, Finland

Dr. Amelia Perez


Perez, A. (2014). Health literacy, acculturation, and health behaviors in Hispanic college students. Poster presentation at Sigma Theta Tau International Greater St. Louis Regional Research Consortium, SIUE

Dr. Ann Popkess


Dr. Melodie Rowbotham

Rowbotham, M. (2015). Navigating the unit: The role of the preceptor, presentation at Anderson Hospital, Maryville, IL


Rowbotham, M. (2014). The Wizard of Oz: lessons on becoming an authentic teacher, presentation at Drexel Nursing Institute, Myrtle Beach, SC

Rowbotham, M. (2014). Click your Ruby Slippers: using active learning in the classroom, presentation at Drexel Nursing Institute, Myrtle Beach, SC

Rowbotham, M. (2014). The impact of faculty development on teaching perspectives, self-efficacy, and retention, presentation at Magna Teaching Professor Conference, Boston, MA


Dr. Carole Sullivan

Sullivan, C. (2014). Palliative Care in the Nursing Home Setting, presentation at the 8th Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO
Faculty Awards and Honors

Dr. Jerrica Ampadu received the Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award from SIUE, January 2015

Dr. Kay Gaehle received the SIUE School of Nursing Course Leader Award

Jean LaFollette was awarded Honorable Mention for Student Advisor of the Year by the SIUE Kimmel Student Involvement Center

Dr. Linda Omondi received the 2015 School of Nursing Rising Star Award, and the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award, Advanced Practice Nurse Category, October 2014

Dr. Melodie Rowbotham received School of Nursing Faculty Excellence Award, and the SIUE Teaching Recognition Award

Ms. Stacy Skelton received SIUE Teaching Recognition Award

Dr. Carole Sullivan received a Nursing Educator Fellowship Award from Illinois Board of Higher Education

Dr. Mary Lee Barron was inducted as a Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners

Faculty Publications

Dr. Mary Lee Barron

Dr. Marietta Bell-Scriber

Dr. Kay Gaehle

Dr. Val Griffin

Dr. Rebecca Leubbert


Dr. Linda Omondi

Dr. Amelia Perez

Dr. Ann Popkess

Dr. Marguerite Riley

Ms. Stacy Skelton
Retirements

Dr. Virginia Cruz, PhD, RN
Department Chair, Associate Professor
14 years of service
Expertise: Nursing Administration

Dr. Marguerite Riley, PhD, RN
Associate Professor
22 years of service
Expertise: Medical Surgical Nursing

Sandy Compton
Office Administrator
14 years of service to School of Nursing
25 years of service at SIUE

Pat Koehne
Office Support Specialist
15 years of service to School of Nursing
20 years of service to SIUE

In Memoriam

Nursing faculty member Patty Kelly died Friday, June 12, at age 50. Ms. Kelly taught in both the undergraduate and graduate programs in the School of Nursing for 10 years. Her focus included various classroom courses, clinical teaching for senior students in the complex nursing care course, and clinical practicum for family nurse practitioner (FNP) students. Her skills and knowledge in these areas were well respected by professionals in clinical agencies and among her peers. Students found she provided the right amount of structure and guidance, allowing them to be self-sufficient and self-learners.

Ms. Kelly truly enjoyed teaching undergraduate students throughout their program, understanding the learning needs of different students. She served on several School committees and showed a deep understanding of the nursing undergraduate and FNP curricula. Her ever-pleasant personality and friendly smile will be deeply missed in the School.
Alumni Hall, Room 2117  
Campus Box 1066  
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Explore Nursing Visit Day  
Saturday, October 10, 2015

School of Nursing Convocation  
Friday, December 18, 2015

School of Nursing Fall Commencement  
Saturday, December 19, 2015

School of Nursing Celebration Gala  
Saturday, April 16, 2016

School of Nursing Spring Convocation  
Friday, May 6, 2016

SIUE Spring Commencement  
Friday, May 6, 2016

For more information on these events, please contact Kris Heather at kheathe@siue.edu or (618) 650-2551.