DEAN’S CORNER

Practice Ready Graduates

At the University of Louisville School of Nursing, the faculty strive to educate individuals to be “Practice Ready.” Practice ready graduates are 25-50% more ready to practice safely during the first year of working as a Registered Nurse. A nursing curriculum that is competency based ensures that student nurses are ready to practice upon graduation. The American Associations of Colleges of Nursing have established new essentials that are competency based which are to be implemented over the next 4-5 years.

“Competencies are observable and measurable behaviors that are demonstrated at multiple times across a program of study (see Dr. Jean Bartels’ video on Competency-Based Education). The competencies apply across both entry into professional nursing education as well as advanced professional nursing education. Sub-competencies delineate the specific behaviors for each competency at the two levels: entry into professional nursing education and advanced professional nursing education.” (AACN, 2021)

Hence, the UofL School of Nursing will begin working on the redesign of the curriculum to be in alignment with the new Essentials published by AACN. This initiative will be integrated in with the UofL School of Nursing approach to collaborative education through our two newly designed classrooms with the state of the art technology designed for collaborative learning. Two new classrooms are slated to be completed by Fall and will be utilized to help rethink student learning outcomes as outlined through the new AACN essentials. Given that face to face classes are planned for Fall semester, these classrooms could not have come at a better time. It is with donor support that such innovation is being made possible.

I am grateful for the funding that is making the UofL School of Nursing a place with cutting edge technology. I hope that this Fall you will join us as we showcase the classrooms through a ribbon cutting.

Go Cards! Dean -Sonya R. Hardin PhD RN NP-C FAAN
In honor of the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birthday, the World Health Organization declared 2020 the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife. The honor extended into 2021 due to the impact of the pandemic and the contributions made by nurses and midwives across the globe. The School of Nursing is recognizing and shining the spotlight on the men and women who continue to be part of the greater good and affect change. Thank you, nurses!
Kentucky joined states across the United States administering its first COVID-19 vaccinations. The vaccination was first offered to health care workers and medical first responders. School of Nursing faculty members in Louisville and Owensboro helped provide the manpower for this vaccination initiative and used it as an educational opportunity for students. Nursing students helped with check-in and administered vaccinations under faculty supervision.

“Nurses have always answered the call to be on the frontlines of saving and protecting lives,” said Whitney Nash, assistant vice president of interprofessional practice partnerships, Health Sciences Center, and associate dean of practice and service, UofL School of Nursing. “Our faculty and students are honored to be part of this vaccination clinic, and join with other health care workers to help end this pandemic.”
We’re excited to announce that renovations on the second floor of the School of Nursing are underway! These renovations officially kick off phase 1 of a 3 phase plan to update all three floors of the building to provide an updated and inviting learning experience for our students. Key features will include best-in-class technology for new interactive classrooms, a student collaboration center, study space, additional simulation labs, and more. Renovations began last fall thanks to a generous $1 million gift from an anonymous donor. Join us fall 2021 to see the progress of our renovations completed in phase 1. We are actively fundraising to secure additional funds needed to totally complete phase 1. If you are interested in supporting the renovations, contact Debra Benton at 502-852-6496 or debra.benton@louisville.edu.

Dr. Vicki Hines-Martin participated in a virtual event titled, “Covid-19 & The Black Community! Hosted by the African American Initiative, the event brought together local African American medical experts to discuss the current situation with respect to COVID-19 and its affect within the black community. COVID-19 has had a disparaging impact on communities of color due to the lack proper medical care. The panelists also discussed what actions are needed to protect its community, families, and ourselves. To view the event, click here.

Dr. Dedra Hayden was honored on March 12 with the UofL Community Engagement Faculty Award, for her work with The Kentucky Racing Health Services Center. Under her leadership, the center received an exemplary recognition from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for its contributions to workers at Churchill Downs who can’t regularly afford healthcare. The Kentucky Racing Health and Welfare Fund was also awarded the Community Partner Award for its support. Congratulations to Dr. Hayden and her team: Ms. Krista Roach, Dr. Karen Turner, and Dr. Cathy Batscha who worked diligently to keep the clinic operational during COVID-19.
**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**

**Dr. Beverly Williams-Coleman**

Dr. Williams-Coleman was recognized as a Volunteer of the Week at the COVID-19 vaccination site.

**Dr. Said Abusalem**

Dr. Abusalem accepted the position of Director of the Master’s Entry into Professional Nursing Program. [Learn more](#) about Said and his role.

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

**Briana Neal, DNP, FNP**

Briana was named a Health Care Hero by Louisville Business First. She shared a story with us from the front lines of COVID-19. [Read more](#).

**Brittney Corniel, BSN, RN**

Brittney accepted a role on the ChooseWell Communities Board of Directors. She is hoping this role will help her promote health and wellness to families across Louisville. [Read more here](#).
During the spring semester, several School of Nursing faculty members visited hotels where some of the area's homeless were relocated due to the snow and cold weather. The group provided health assessments and dressing supply kits that were donated by Supplies OverSeas.

Several students spent time helping out in the community in February. The students helped Salvation Army Louisville clean areas of their building and prepare food boxes for their weekly distribution.
BY THE NUMBERS

ENROLLMENT
Lower Division  455
Upper Division                 579
Graduate programs  200

ENROLLMENT TRENDS
Ethnic Diversity of Student Body
White  71%
Non-white  29%

Gender Diversity of Student Body
Undergraduate  13% Male  87% Female
Graduate  11% Male  89% Female

Student Nurse Residency
Kentucky residents  84%
Out of State  16%

GRADUATION TRENDS
Anticipated degrees awarded in May, August 2021
BSN  127
MSN (MEPN)  26
DNP (August)  38
Postgraduate certificates  4

**This unofficial data reflects Spring/Summer 2021

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TRAVEL

With hopes for the future, the School of Nursing has created the International Student Travel Fund. If you are interested in more information or to make a gift to the fund, please contact Debra Benton at 502-852-6496 or debra.benton@louisville.edu.
DID YOU KNOW?

In 1952, after much hard work and perseverance by Louisville General Hospital School of Nursing administration, a four-year baccalaureate program commenced. The school would no longer be under the UofL School of Medicine, but instead became its own unit. The UofL School of Nursing opened its doors in September 1952 with just seven students. The school’s administration worked hard to improve enrollment by Spring 1953, but the University’s Board of Trustees decided to close the program after just one year of operation, citing financial concerns. The school returned to its previous status as a three-year, diploma program under the UofL School of Medicine.

CONVOCATION

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2021! What these students learned and experienced during this period of unprecedented uncertainty will fuel their potential to build a better world, here and beyond. View our virtual convocation and learn more about our newest members to the School of Nursing Alumni.

JOB OPENINGS

Do you know anyone interested in joining the Cardinal family? The university encompasses diverse perspectives that are devoted to teaching, learning and developing leaders. The School of Nursing has a number of open positions. For more information and how to apply, click here.