

URBAN HEALTH

Wayne State University's College of Nursing





HIGHLIGHT

At the **College of Nursing Open House**, Andrea Adams explores how fascinating the tools and ability are in the ever evolving nursing program at Wayne State University. Cutting edge technology in a field of work where she is passionate about helping others.



Andrea Adams



WAYNE STATE College of Nursing

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CONTRIBUTORS

Editorial

Ted Montgomery

Shawntay Lewis

Indera Rodgers-Robinson

Photography

David Dalton

Paul Hitzelberger

Design

NW Journey LLC

nikkiwjourney.com

GREETINGS FROM THE DEAN



2024 has been bustling with activity and exciting changes for Wayne State University and the College of Nursing.

I, for one, am thrilled to be your new dean. As a native Detroiter, I am committed to expanding our college's outreach to our urban community. I cannot wait to see all the amazing and wonderful projects we will accomplish together.

It's hard to believe that it has been over a year since we welcomed our 13th president, Kimberly Andrews Espy. Her impact can be

felt across the university, as she continues to be an active presence on campus, building connections with our students, faculty, staff, and our city. President **Espy's prosperity agenda** calls out two of the College's greatest strengths: First, we accelerate the social mobility of students from a diverse and first-generation backgrounds. Across all BSN tracks, the graduation rate is 92% and 92% become practicing nurses in less than 6 months. Second, we provide community immersed care. The **Taylor Street Primary Care Clinic** is a full-service primary care clinic serving Detroit residents in the Virginia Park community. Wayne State's Fall Opening festivities marked the start of the new academic year, filling our campus with activity and excitement. We hosted New Student Convocation, our White Coat Ceremony, and FestiFall, where we held simulation lab demonstrations, Z-space® virtual reality experiences and mobile robot races. These events provided a wonderful opportunity to meet many new nursing students and their families just beginning their Wayne State journey.

Beyond campus, the latest rankings continue to highlight the strength of our college's national reputation. Our MSN and DNP programs are consistently ranked among the top graduate nursing programs in the country by U.S. News & World Report. Meanwhile, the 2025 rankings continue to place our BSN as one of the nation's best undergraduate nursing programs.

Coming Soon! In 2025, the College of Nursing will complete the renovation of a large, 21st century technology-enabled classroom with a seating capacity of 160 and a smaller graduate program classroom. The construction is currently underway. We are very excited that we will soon have the capacity to host larger class sizes, equipped with the latest technology.

In this issue of Urban Health magazine, you will find a focus on community engaged nursing research, scholarship, practice and board service. These community projects strike at the heart of our mission and highlight our greatest strengths as a college. These projects are centered on engaging with the community to improve the health of our diverse urban community. Each article focuses on how our faculty and staff work to improve outcomes for underserved populations by addressing the health disparities that impact individuals, families, and communities in our urban environment. These stories exemplify what we mean when we say we are engaged in urban health. It is who we are, and I am proud to share that with you in the pages that follow.

Ramona Benkert, PhD, ANP-BC, FAANP

Dean and Professor

Wayne State University College of Nursing



CONTENTS



06

News & Notes

24

College of Nursing Charts Community Reach

36

Student Spotlight

16

16

Major Moments

32

Addressing the mental health stigma

40

In Memoriam



18

22

Transforming Classrooms with Advanced Tech

42

Faculty Accolades and Accomplishments

NEWS & NOTES

PhD student Biyyiah Lee selected as a 2024-2026 Jonas Scholar

Jonas Nursing, a leading supporter of doctoral nursing education in the U.S., and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), announced that Wayne State University College of Nursing PhD student Biyyiah Lee has been selected as a Jonas Scholar for the program's 2024-2026 cohort. This program aims to improve health care by expanding the pool of PhD and DNP-prepared nurses needed to educate the next generation of nurse leaders.

Lee joins a select group of 63 of the nation's most promising doctoral nursing students chosen for their passion for teaching, academic excellence, and research prowess. As a Jonas Scholar, Lee will receive financial support, mentorship, and a curriculum tailored to providing students with the learning experiences they need to successfully transition into a faculty role.

"On behalf of the entire Wayne State College of Nursing community, I want to congratulate Biyyiah on this outstanding accomplishment," said College of Nursing Dean Ramona Benkert, PhD, PhD, ANP-BC, FAANP. "She is the 12th Jonas Scholar in our college's history, reflecting a rich tradition of educating exceptional doctorally prepared nurses. I have no doubt that Biyyiah will make an impact on the future of our profession with this support from Jonas Nursing."

Lee joins an incredibly diverse group of doctoral nursing students, with over 50% of its 2024-2026 cohort representative of Black, Latino, and other communities of color, ensuring that burgeoning nursing leaders reflect the patient population of their diverse communities. This group of 63 Scholars contain a multitude of research interests focused on some of the country's most pressing challenges, including underserved populations in nursing, mental health, and veterans' health.

Lee's research focuses on the relationship between cannabis use and mental health outcomes in underserved urban minority communities under the supervision of Assistant Professor Seung Hee Choi, PhD, RN.

"Being named a Jonas Scholar is such an honor and a pivotal moment in my academic journey. This recognition strengthens my commitment to advancing nursing education and research, especially in addressing health disparities in underserved communities," Lee said. "I'm excited to continue my studies with the support of a network of like-minded scholars and mentors. I am grateful for this support, especially as I navigate a new and controversial topic. It's encouraging to know that my passions are backed by such a great organization and network of health care professionals."

The Jonas Scholar at Wayne State University is made possible by a grant from Jonas Nursing.





College of Nursing faculty members recognized with Nightingale Awards for Nursing Excellence

Wayne State College of Nursing Associate Clinical Professor Cynthera McNeill, DNP, APRN, AGPCNP-C, FAANP, and Assistant Clinical Professor Tara Walker, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC were among a select group of outstanding Michigan nurses to receive a 2024 Nightingale Award for Nursing Excellence from the Oakland University School of Nursing.

The awards honor dedicated nurses throughout the state across 10 different categories. Awardees are nominated by their peers and supervisors, recognized as exceptional in their nursing roles in both clinical and nonclinical settings.

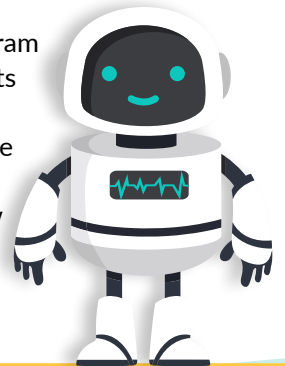
Dr. McNeill received the Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing Research, and Dr. Walker received the Award for Excellence in Community Nursing. They are the first Wayne State University College of Nursing faculty members to receive Nightingale Awards.

The awards were presented during a ceremony on May 8. Award winners received a check for \$1,000, a solid bronze statue of Florence Nightingale and a Nightingale pin.

Information and Innovation Day

Information sessions were held in August with academic advisors and directors of the undergraduate and graduate programs to help students learn about the various pathways that the College of Nursing offers. Students had an opportunity to engage with faculty and current College of Nursing students while learning about the prerequisite requirements to gain admission to the Wayne State Nursing programs.

Students also had an opportunity to engage in hands-on activities with the college's Simulation Laboratory staff and our high-fidelity mannequins, virtual reality programs and clinical based robots. The C2 Pipeline program was on site providing students with a glimpse of zSpace AR/VR devices, which incorporate the latest user experience technologies providing a new way of learning in a lifelike, virtual environment.



The College of Nursing was pleased to award nearly \$1.3 million in scholarships this past year.

College of Nursing hosted HRSA administrator and Michigan DHHS director during national roundtable on enhancing maternal health

Carole Johnson, administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, visited Wayne State University as part of the national Enhancing Maternal Health Initiative tour.

The Enhancing Maternal Health Initiative is focused on implementing the White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis.

During Johnson's visit, she highlighted new national funding to support this work across the

country and in Michigan. She also conducted a roundtable convening of women and families supported by HRSA programs, HRSA-funded health care providers and community-based organizations, and community leaders working to address maternal and infant health across the state of Michigan.

In the last year alone, the Wayne State College of Nursing has been awarded more than \$7 million from HRSA for projects focused on enhancing the nursing workforce and advancing health equity in Detroit and other medically underserved communities. These interdisciplinary projects are being led by WSU Nursing faculty members including Assistant Clinical Professor Nicole Wheeler, DNP, CNM, and Associate Clinical Professor Cynthera McNeill, DNP, APRN, AGPCNP-C.

\$600,000 awarded to Wayne State team to reduce barriers to colorectal cancer screening and opioid overdose prevention

A team of Wayne State University College of Nursing faculty, led by Clinical Associate Professor Cynthera McNeill, DNP, APRN, AGPCNP-C, FAANP, has been awarded \$600,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health to implement the Building Relationships to Impact Disparities and Generate Equity (B.R.I.D.G.E) project. The project aims to reduce barriers to colorectal cancer screening and drug overdose prevention in metro Detroit within African American and Middle Eastern North African communities. The grant is eligible for continuation for four years with a total award of over \$2 million.





“In the Detroit metro area, colorectal cancer screening and drug overdose disparities are pervasive and multifactorial. More than 29% of residents don’t have access to appropriate screening, and the state is also experiencing an opioid epidemic and drug overdose crisis,” McNeill explained. “Disparities in social determinants of health – specifically access to health care and social and community context – are major contributing factors fueling these issues. This project will leverage the impact of nurses as trusted messengers and implement quality improvement initiatives at clinics with providers in various service organizations and in communities to improve health outcomes.”

The program aims to address these disparities by using the strength of the Wayne State College of Nursing’s established relationships with primary care delivery systems in medically underserved communities and various other community organizations.



Joining McNeill on the B.R.I.D.G.E. project team are Clinical Assistant Professors Angela Bowman, DNP, APRN, ANP-BC; Erik Carter, PhD, APRN, ACNS, CCRN-A, PHN; Umeika Stephens, DNP, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC; and Tara Walker, DNP, ACNP-BC; Clinical Professor Nancy George, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, FAANP; and Clinical Instructor Randon Jenkins, DNP, AGPCNP-BC.

“Our college is perfectly positioned to lead this important work addressing health disparities that have affected individuals and families in Detroit and surrounding communities,” said WSU College of Nursing Dean Ramona Benkert, PhD, ANP-BC, FAANP. “Supported by our longstanding clinical partnerships and deep-rooted connections throughout metro Detroit, I’m confident that Dr. McNeill and the skilled nursing faculty implementing the B.R.I.D.G.E. project will build lasting interventions that eliminate barriers and improve access to essential care for those who have been underserved for far too long.”

“With the support of this important grant from the Office of Minority Health, Wayne State’s nursing faculty will help create pathways to vital colorectal cancer screening and opioid overdose prevention,” said Ezemenari M. Obasi, PhD, vice president for research & innovation at Wayne State. “This project is an example of our commitment to the well-being of our metro Detroit community and beyond. I look forward to the impact that Dr. McNeill and others from our College of Nursing will make with the help of this funding.”

Funding from the Office of Minority Health will support the project’s multifaceted initiatives, which include:

- Partnering with five community clinics in medically underserved communities to address known social determinants of health barriers such as health literacy and medical mistrust.
- Addressing transportation barriers for high-risk persons in need of colonoscopies by partnering with Karmanos Cancer Institute and other clinics and caregiver agencies.
- Training 20 registered nurses and 50 community members annually in mental health first aid and Narcan administration.
- Training 150 health care providers annually in substance abuse, colorectal cancer and overdose screening interventions.
- Expanding partnerships with influential community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations, to increase colorectal cancer and overdose screening awareness.
- Establishing a free colonoscopy program for high-risk, uninsured patients in collaboration with Karmanos Cancer Institute and other clinical partners.
- Developing a multimedia awareness campaign addressing colorectal cancer screening and opioid overdose in metro Detroit.

Dr. Cynthera McNeill to lead interprofessional Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program project supported by \$5M Health Resources and Services Administration grant

Wayne State University has been awarded a five-year, \$5 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to implement an interprofessional Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program project through collaboration among six Wayne State schools and colleges, the WSU Institute of Gerontology, and eight community health care organizations.

The project, Applied Gerontology Research and Education to Eliminate Disparities (AGREED), will be led by College of Nursing Associate Clinical Professor Cynthera McNeill, DNP, APRN, AGPCNP-C, FAANP, who will serve as the program director and grant evaluator.

The AGREED project encompasses the efforts and expertise of faculty and staff from the Wayne State College of Nursing, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, School of Medicine, School of Social Work, College of Education, College of Engineering, and Institute of Gerontology. Its focus is to educate and train health care and supportive care workforces to care for older adults by collaborating with community partners, and to maximize patient and family engagement to address care gaps and improve health outcomes for older adults by integrating geriatrics with primary care and other appropriate specialties.

“In parts of Wayne County, including Detroit, older adults are dying at twice the rate of those who live elsewhere in Michigan,” McNeill explained. “Disparities in social determinants of health, which include access to health care, are major contributing factors to poor health outcomes. This multidisciplinary project brings together leading experts across

our university, who will engage directly with our community to address those disparities and make a sustainable, generational difference to improve the health of this population.”

“I am thrilled that the College of Nursing will play a leading role in this critically important work to reshape health care for older adults in our community and our state,” said College of Nursing Dean Ramona Benkert, Ph.D., ANP-BC, FAANP. “We are well positioned to drive these efforts, with a mission rooted in empowering health for our urban communities and Dr. McNeill’s internationally renowned expertise in urban health and health disparities. Through collaboration with our skilled colleagues across the university, I believe this project will help create a new standard for geriatric care and education.”

“I am pleased to see Wayne State has received this important funding from HRSA, which will bring together faculty from all corners of our campus and community health care organizations to address critical

Faculty Promotions

Congratulations to faculty who received promotions in the College of Nursing this past year.



Cynthera McNeill
promoted to
Associate Professor Clinical



Maha Albdour
promoted to
Associate Professor with tenure



care gaps in our elderly population,” said Ezemenari M. Obasi, Ph.D., vice president for research at Wayne State University. “This project is an excellent example of how our research is playing a vital role in the health of Detroiters and beyond.”

The multidimensional scope of work on the AGREED project involves contributions from numerous Wayne State faculty researchers and staff members, including:

Candice Garwood, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Pharm.D., FCCP, BCPS, BCACP, as a co-leader for PharmD; Diane Adamo, Ph.D., M.S., OTR, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, as co-leader for physical therapy and occupational therapy; and Aline Saad, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, PharmD, as

of Education’s Community Health Worker Academy; and assist health professional training programs to become registered apprenticeship programs with the United States Department of Labor.

Donna McDonald, Institute of Gerontology, Wayne State University, as a co-investigator to provide training to health professionals on topics including Alzheimer’s disease, aging

“I am thrilled that the College of Nursing will play a leading role in this critically important work to reshape health care for older adults in our community and our state.”

Pragnesh Patel, M.D., F.A.C.P., who serves as a co-leader to expand interprofessional education initiatives in the School of Medicine’s geriatric fellows’ program.

Faith Hopp, M.S.W., Ph.D., who serves as a co-leader to expand interprofessional initiatives for students at the School of Social Work.

the interprofessional curriculum coordinator for the project.

Nate McCaughtry, Ph.D. and Jeanne Barcelona, Ph.D., who serve as co-investigators to create a geriatric specialist certification for certified nursing assistants, community health workers, and medical assistants; offer training to members of the health and direct care workforce through the College

syndromes and the latest research on dementia care.

Dongxiao Zhu, Ph.D., and a team from the College of Engineering will lead development and maintenance of the Remember My Elder mobile app for caregivers and members of the health and supportive care workforce.



Nancy George
promoted to
Professor Clinical



Nicole Wheeler
promoted to
Assistant Professor Clinical



Stacey Sears
promoted to
Assistant Professor Clinical





EMPOWERING LOCAL STUDENTS

C2 Pipeline receives more than \$1 million grant to expand services for local high school students and families

The Wayne State University College of Nursing C2 Pipeline Program has been awarded a \$1,091,040 grant from the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential as part of a \$50 million funding package aimed at expanding access to affordable before, after and summer school opportunities for students across the state.

Operating in 15 Metro Detroit high schools and serving 1,600 students per day, C2 Pipeline uses



hands-on, project-based learning activities in science, technology, engineering and math to engage students with a focus on college and career readiness, particularly in the S.T.E.M. and health care professions. The grant funding will be used to provide transportation services to students at C2's partner schools each day after school and throughout the summer, making the program's on-campus and off-campus programming more accessible.

"Transportation is a significant barrier to out-of-school time programming, particularly for us and especially in the winter months," said C2 Pipeline Project Director Don Neal. "Transportation costs have increased dramatically since the pandemic, so this grant is a huge benefit for us and our students. This funding helps remove barriers to make our program more accessible while ensuring that our students are safe and get the support they need."

C2 Pipeline data shows a decrease in program participation over the last two years in certain schools, and Neal notes that a lack of transportation options is a contributing factor.



Fall 2024 Enrollment

529
undergraduate
students

267
graduate
student

796
total

National Rankings

BSN program is
#54
in the U.S.

Top
7%
of undergraduate
nursing programs
in the country



“Looking at data from our last two years of programming, our participant numbers in these schools have decreased partly because we do not offer transportation home,” Neal explained. “We’ve seen a reduction in students who walk, ride the bus and have someone pick them up. This transition in numbers all can be attributed to our inability to provide transportation to students after our program due to a lack of funding.”

According to research conducted by the Afterschool Alliance and cited in a press release from Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer announcing the grants, more than 751,000 children in Michigan lack access to out-of-school time programming. The Michigan Afterschool Partnership also found that there is a disproportionate undersupply of out-of-school time providers in Michigan’s predominately black and low-income communities.

“C2 Pipeline is a tremendous asset to students and families throughout our region, and I’m thrilled they will be able to enhance their services and provide additional benefits to these students and families with this funding,” said Dean Ramona

Benkert, PhD, ANP-BC, FAANP. “Their community-engaged work is an important extension of our mission as a college and the broader mission of Wayne State University.”¹⁰



Third-highest ranked
BSN program in Michigan

MSN program is
#2
in Michigan and
#38 in the U.S.

DNP program is
#2
in Michigan and
#49 in the U.S.



MAJOR MOMENTS



2024 White Coat Ceremony

More than 140 Wayne State BSN students proudly donned their white coats for the very first time in a longstanding and inspiring tradition at St. Andrew's Hall during the College of Nursing's ninth annual White Coat Ceremony.

As these aspiring nurses begin their clinical rotations, the White Coat Ceremony serves as an official welcome to the nursing profession, affirming their commitment to providing humanistic, compassionate care, and an important rite of passage as students are cloaked by faculty members, with personal remarks from Dean Ramona Benkert.



2024 College of Nursing Urban Health Research Conference

Researchers, practitioners and scholars from all disciplines took part in an engaging conference focused on overcoming the effects of mistrust and discrimination to build trustworthy relationships in health care.

Through presentations, panel discussions and breakout sessions covering a wide range of topics, attendees explored the meaning and importance of medical mistrust in health care, discussed the impact of discrimination and mistrust on diverse vulnerable populations, examined strategies to encourage vulnerable populations to participate in health research, and explored interventions to establish trustworthiness and build trust in health care.

The conference was highlighted by keynote speakers S. Raquel Ramos, PhD, MBA, MSN, FNP, FNYAM, FAHA, from the Yale University School of Nursing and Schenita Davis Randolph, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, from Duke University School of Nursing.





WAYNE STATE
College of Nursing

Evaluation of Neonatal ICU Written Education Materials: A Health Literacy Quality Improvement Initiative
Soble, S.,¹ Nantals-Smith, L.,¹ Wiers, S.,² Scerri, S.,²
¹College of Nursing, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
²Ascension St. John Hospital, Detroit, MI

RESULTS

Side Top Test Score Results for Clinicians

Group	Score
Group 1	~65
Group 2	~75
Group 3	~85
Group 4	~95

METHODS

- The Health Literate Care Model provides a personal, participatory approach and resources of parents from the NICU.
- Top of team activities provided the conceptual and methodological underpinnings for this project.
 - "Empower Written Communication"
 - "Apply Assessment Methods"
- The SAM (Quality Measurement of Materials) tool was chosen for this project due to its focus on identifying existing written educational materials.

SUMMARY AND FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- The strength of this QI initiative lies in its potential to be sustained.
- Provide immediate and clear educational content to be assessed.
- The effectiveness of the educational program will be evaluated based on individual outcomes, program compliance and acceptability.
- Results highlight the urgency for health literacy interventions to be implemented in neonatal intensive care units who put their neonates in a position to receive the most critical care for potential life-threatening outcomes. Decreased hospital readmission rates, decreased hospital length of stay, and decreased neonatal mortality rates are all potential outcomes of this initiative.
- This healthcare intervention method will be implemented in many years. It is easily implemented in any hospital setting and will continue to be a priority for neonatal intensive care units.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
URBAN HEALTH
BUILDING TRUST IN HEALTH CARE
AMONG DIVERSE POPULATIONS



3rd Annual Rice Lecture focuses on Importance of Interprofessional Education and Practice

The College of Nursing's third annual Dr. Virginia Hill Rice Endowed Lectureship was held Oct. 24, 2024, and featured two preeminent speakers: Dr. Debra Trautman and Dr. Kathleen Reeves.

Dr. Trautman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), is the national voice for baccalaureate and graduate nursing education. AACN serves the public interest by setting standards, providing resources, and developing the leadership capacity of member schools to advance nursing education, research and practice.

Prior to AACN, Dr. Trautman served as the Executive Director of the Center for Health Policy and Healthcare Transformation at Johns Hopkins Hospital and has authored numerous publications on health policy, leadership, nursing practice and nursing education.

Dr. Reeves, President and CEO of The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Urban Health and Population Science, the Center for Urban Bioethics, and the Department of Pediatrics at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University.

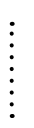
Her previous leadership roles at the Katz School of Medicine included Founding Director, Center

for Urban Bioethics; Chair, Department of Urban Health and Population Science; Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs; and inaugural Senior Associate Dean for the Office of Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. She is also a Gold Humanism Honor Society member.

The two nationally recognized experts in health policy, ethics and education delivered their presentation, "Interprofessional Education and Practice: Why it Still Matters."

The intriguing discussion analyzed trends in health care and higher education along with societal issues influencing interprofessional education and practice.

Established in 2018 by College of Nursing Professor Emerita Virginia Rice, PhD, RN, CNS, FAAN, the annual lectureship brings renowned speakers to campus to share a futurist perspective on nursing and health care through insightful presentations and engaging discussion with faculty, students, residents and community partners.







College of Nursing Spring 2024 Convocation Ceremony

Graduates from the College of Nursing proudly participated in the Spring 2024 Convocation in May. The College of Nursing's commencement and convocation ceremonies saw about 170 BSN, MSN and DNP graduates cross the stages in the General Lectures Auditorium and Wayne State Fieldhouse in a celebratory culmination of years of hard work.

The more intimate Convocation provided an opportunity for nursing grads to receive personal recognition from College of Nursing leadership. During Commencement, nursing graduates were recognized alongside their peers from other programs, with an address from the president, guest speakers and university leadership. [UH](#)





Transforming Classrooms

WITH
ADVANCED
TECH





The College of Nursing is expanding its undergraduate program and constructing a new classroom with advanced technology to accommodate the increase in students.

As Director of Undergraduate Programming in the College of Nursing, Erik Carter, PhD, MS, APRN-ACNS, CCRN-A, PHN, says the new classroom will significantly enhance student learning and faculty teaching methods.

“Creating an interactive and dynamic learning environment fosters collaboration, critical thinking and clinical reasoning. This cutting-edge technology allows students to engage with real-time clinical scenarios, access virtual simulations, and utilize adaptive learning tools that provide personalized feedback while promoting cooperative learning. These resources prepare our students to navigate the complexities of modern health care and excel in critical assessments like the NCLEX. Additionally, we will now be able to



“Tools like smartboards, touchscreens, and virtual reality create engaging, immersive experiences that traditional methods can’t provide. These resources enable dynamic lessons, allowing students to visualize complex concepts, collaborate in real time, and explore learning beyond textbooks.”

deliver all our didactic classes in our own space, in the College of Nursing, with built-in flexibility in the classroom to enhance experiential learning,” said Carter.

Carter worked together with faculty, instructional designers, classroom designers, and WSU technology partners to ensure that the layout and tools genuinely reflect the current nursing education needs.

Stacey Sears, DNP, RN, CPNP-AC, Assistant Professor, Clinical, was involved with the planning and is enthusiastic about the new learning space.

“Tools like smartboards, touchscreens, and virtual reality create engaging, immersive experiences that traditional methods can’t provide. These resources enable dynamic lessons, allowing students to visualize

complex concepts, collaborate in real time, and explore learning beyond textbooks,” says Sears.

Based on her lecture experience, Jessica Smith, Instructor, Clinical, and Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Specialty Coordinator, was involved in discussions regarding the flow of the new classroom. When asked about the advantages of the new classroom, Smith says, “The new technology will allow faculty to better engage varied types of learners. All students learn differently, and the classroom hopefully will allow all students to remain engaged in active learning.”

Stefan Smolenski, DNP, Instructor, Clinical, was instrumental in the design phase and discussed how the new technology will facilitate hybrid style lectures. “Students who attend virtually and also in person will be able to collaborate in this space to work through case studies and various other assignments. I also think that the new classroom will provide lots of accessibility for students who may not have a wireless device and provide some backup options for students experiencing technical issues for any number of reasons.”^{UH}





College of Nursing Charts Community Reach

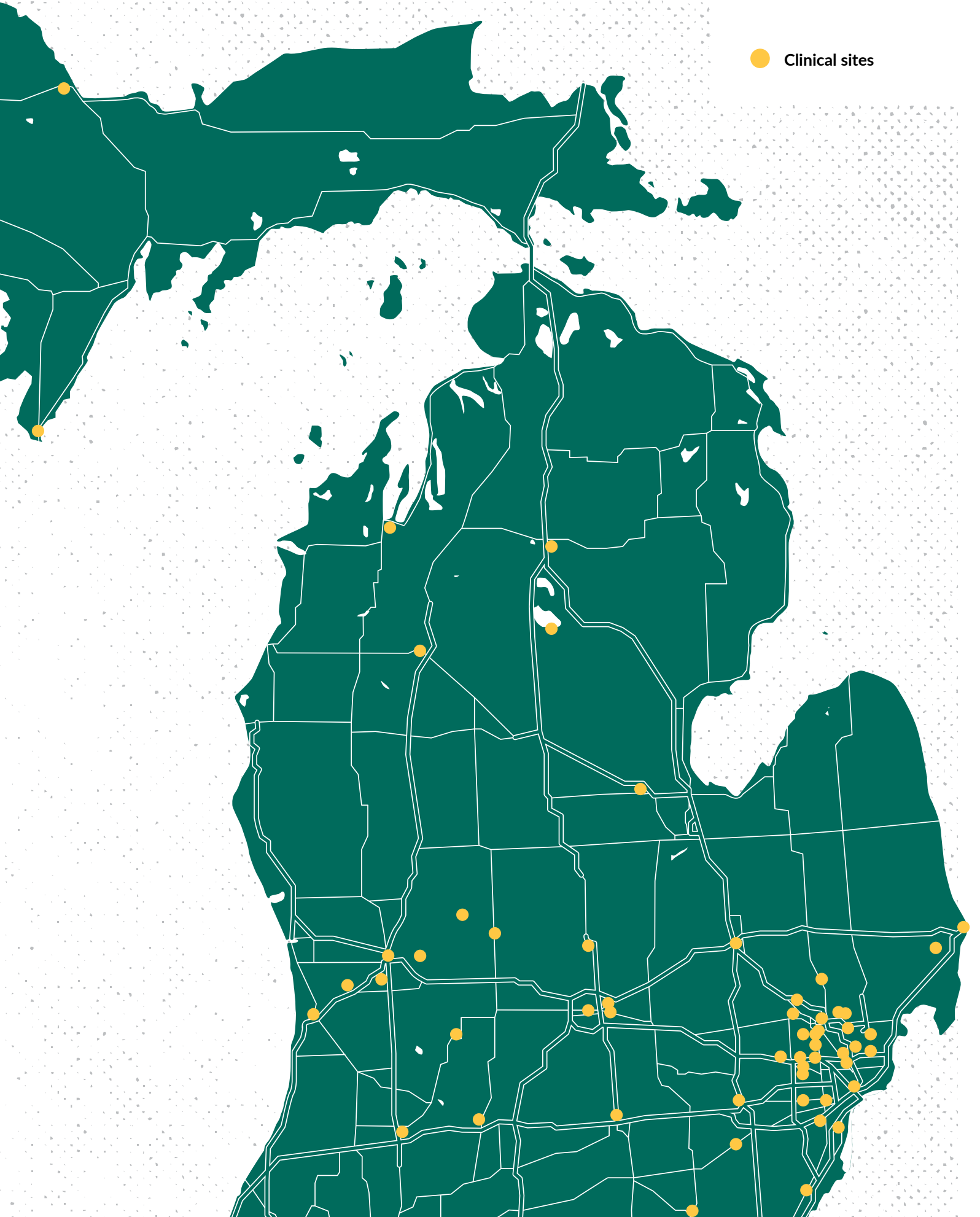
Wayne State University College of Nursing faculty and staff live the mission of the College year-round in their roles as “leaders who improve health in local and global communities.” They are involved in various clinics, organizations, committees, and practices throughout metro Detroit. They demonstrate in their lives outside of work the desire to work with communities to facilitate changes in the community. The College of Nursing’s community footprint seeks to leave a lasting urban impact, addressing the health disparities for vulnerable patients and improve health outcomes.

At the College of Nursing, creating nursing with an urban impact focused on research, education and clinical practice motivates faculty, staff, and students to be involved in their own communities. There are no limitations

to how innovative staff, students and faculty reach their patients and the communities in which they live.

From Dearborn to Downtown Detroit, each faculty and staff plays a role in the College of Nursing’s ability to transform urban health. Everyone presented here chose a route they believe has significance to the College’s mission as a leader who improves the health of others. While we could not list every individual’s impact, the exemplars we present here highlight how they (and their peers) are involved outside of Wayne State’s campus, leaving lasting impacts on the organizations and the vulnerable patient populations they serve while maintaining their commitment to providing humanistic, compassionate care.

● Clinical sites





The Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)

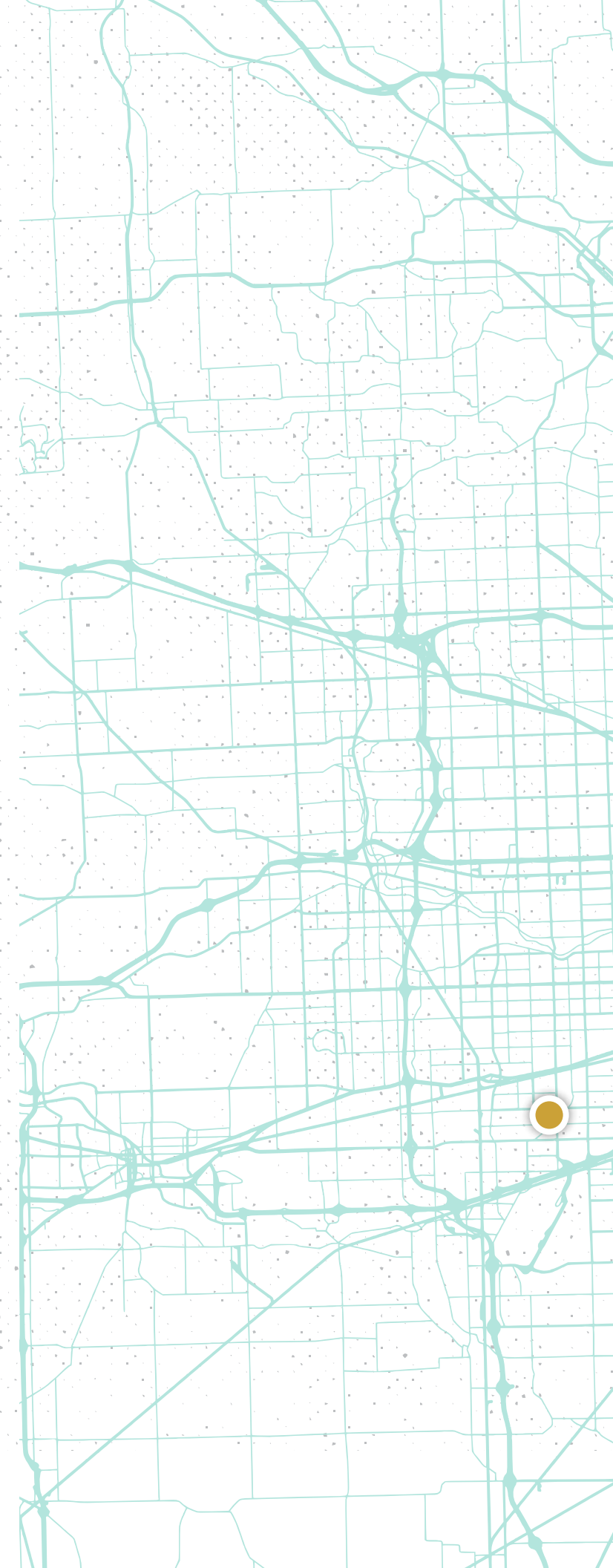


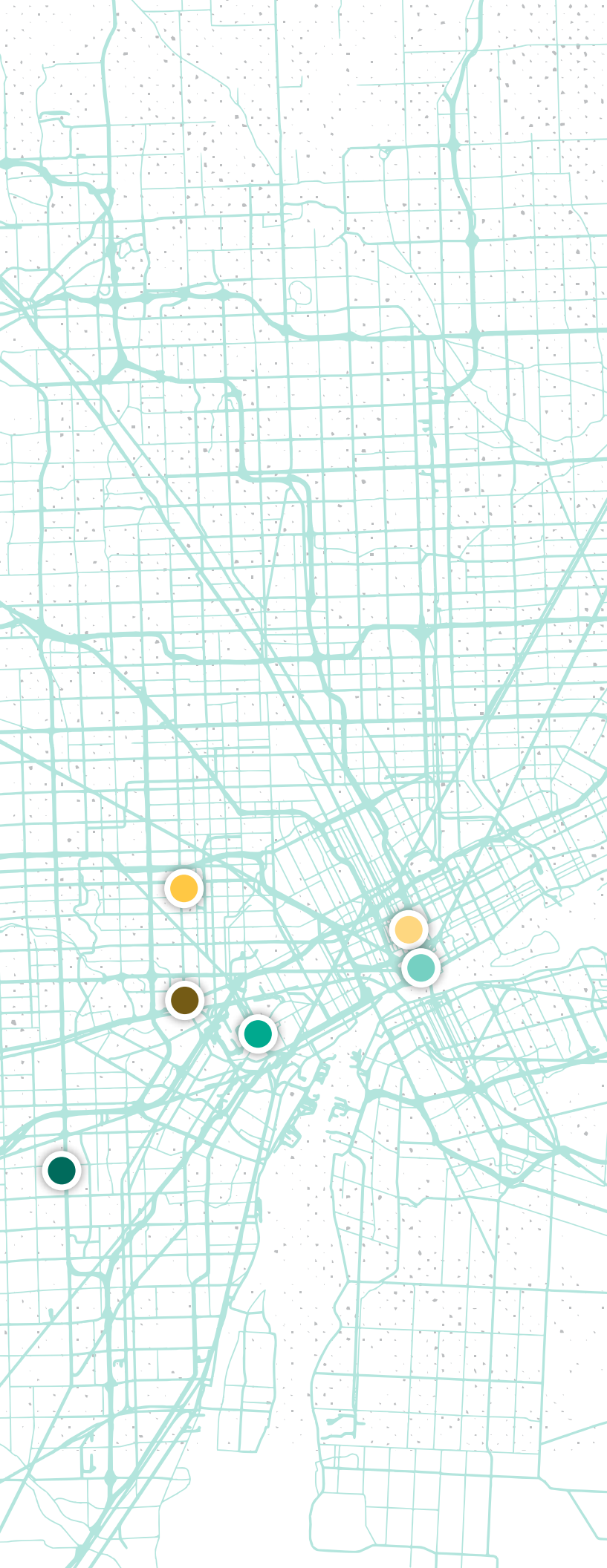
Faculty member: Associate Professor and PhD Program Director Maha Albdour, PhD, APHN-BC, RN

Role: Volunteer

PhD Program Director Dr. Maha Albdour, a board-certified advanced public health nurse, spends her time volunteering at the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) and presenting her research at their events in the community. This year, Dr. Albdour presented two posters at the Arab Health Summit, discussing her mental health research among Arab American youth. She conducts research for several projects among the Arab American community, exploring psychosocial stressors and childhood adversities. “My work is focused on Arab American adolescents and young adults, as well as their parents. My research examines their psychosocial stress in relation to mental and physical health,” said Dr. Albdour. ACCESS is a nonprofit organization serving the Arab American community with 11 locations and more than 120 programs offering social, economic, health and educational services, in metro Detroit. The organization brings learning opportunities and chances to empower Arab American communities to improve their health, economic, social, and cultural well-being.

“ACCESS has been a community partner for numerous research studies focused on immigrant Middle Eastern, North African, and Arab American communities, including studies conducted by WSU faculty. The center encompasses a youth clinic that provides various youth and family activities throughout the year,” Dr. Albdour said. In 2023, 66% of the clients served through ACCESS programs were of Arab descent and 28% were 19 years or under, she said.





The Clean Love Project



Faculty member: Director of Student Engagement and Special Projects, Clinical Placement Liaison Dawn Pauli, MSM

Role: President

Director of Student Engagement and Special Projects Dawn Pauli serves as President of The Clean Love Project, ensuring women and young girls experiencing poverty and homelessness in metro Detroit can receive the proper feminine hygiene projects to feel clean, loved and empowered. Founded in 2015 by Founder and Executive Director, Lacey Catarino, the goal of the nonprofit is to provide hygiene support for vulnerable women and girls. With various community partnerships, the organization builds hygiene kits and distributes them to various locations.

“By providing hygiene kits that include important products such as sanitary pads and tampons, we are able to help empower women and girls to stay in school, engage in daily activities, and ultimately pursue their dreams without barriers,” Pauli said. Pauli helps the project by identifying new partnerships, fundraising, discovering grants, and delivering hygiene products to partners in metro Detroit.

“I believe in the mission and want to ensure that no woman or girl is held back by lack of access to basic hygiene products - something that I always took for granted,” said Pauli. The Clean Love Project has donated hygiene kits to Wayne State University organizations, including the patients that the College of Nursing serves at the Taylor Street Clinic, Street Medicine Detroit, and the HIGH program. “It is a good feeling knowing that my work outside of Wayne State can make a positive impact on the university,” Pauli said.

Human Rights Commission for the City of Detroit Civil Rights, Inclusion & Opportunity Department



Faculty member: Assistant Professor Clinical and Director of Undergraduate Programs Erik Carter, PhD, MS, APRN-ACNS, CCRN-A, PHN
Role: Civil Rights, Inclusion & Opportunity (CRIO) Human Rights Commissioner

Director of Undergraduate Programs Dr. Erik Carter serves as the City of Detroit District 5 Human Rights Commissioner in the City of Detroit Civil Rights, Inclusion and Opportunity Department. As a commissioner, he serves as a liaison for residents of District 5 to ensure they receive equal access to economic, political, education and other public service opportunities. The Human Rights Commission holds public meetings each month to address current human rights issues. Dr. Carter's involvement in subcommittees for the Human Rights Commission helps revise bylaws and address human rights concerns regarding racial equality, disability rights and LGBTQ+ issues. "We work to eliminate discrimination and promote policies that ensure equal opportunity for all residents, regardless of their background," Dr. Carter said. In this role, Dr. Carter invites College of Nursing students to volunteer at public health events such as the annual Men's Health Event at Ford Field.

"I view this role as an extension of my life's work—advocating for vulnerable populations, promoting equity, and ensuring that every Detroit resident has the opportunity to thrive," said Dr. Carter. "I believe that systemic change begins at the community level, and this position allows me to contribute to that change in a meaningful way." Through his background in education and nursing, he has been able to connect his advocacy for fair treatment in the clinical setting to advocacy outside of it. He chose to be a commissioner because of his dedication through nursing to the well-being of underserved populations.

"I see the ethical principles I teach in nursing, such as justice, advocacy, and fairness, reflected in my responsibilities as a commissioner. In both positions, I engage with the community, lead discussions about critical issues, and work to ensure that everyone has access to the rights and resources they deserve," he said.

Scott Memorial United Methodist Church



Faculty member: Assistant Professor Clinical Angela Bowman, DNP, RN, ANP-BC
Role: Chairperson of the Health and Wellness Ministry Team

Assistant Professor Clinical Angela Bowman, a board-certified nurse practitioner, uses her nursing education to serve the community at her church. As the Chairperson of the Health and Wellness Ministry Team at Scott Memorial United Methodist Church, she functions as the congregation's health consultant and facilitator of all things health and wellness related. An example of her duties is when she facilitated and helped train 14 congregants of trustees and ushers in CPR, First Aid, AED certification and training with the American Red Cross. She also helps coordinate the church's annual back to school and health fair.

"I have been an active member of Scott Memorial UMC for over 18 years and have been working on the health ministry team since becoming a RN," said Bowman. "As a newer RN, I would work with other Scott Memorial UMC members who were also nurses each Sunday, providing blood pressure evaluations, and if needed, first aid to the congregation."

Scott Memorial United Methodist Church is one of the first Black Methodist Episcopal Churches in Michigan and has been active in Detroit since 1909. Their vision is to create a community of faith that embodies hospitality and authentic fellowship. The congregation majorly consists of African American men and women, ranging from ages mid-30s to mid-90s, she said. The church serves disadvantaged residents of the 48227 zip code through their ministries, health and wellness outreach, food pantry, the United Women in Faith Ministry, among other diverse services.

"Part of its mission is to become a community of faith which embodies genuine hospitality, authentic relationships and part of its vision statement is to have meaningful ministries to service," Bowman said.



Wayne County Healthy Communities at Wayne Health Center



Faculty member: Professor, Clinical Nancy George, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, FAANP

Role: Family Nurse Practitioner at Wayne County Healthy Communities Wayne Health Center

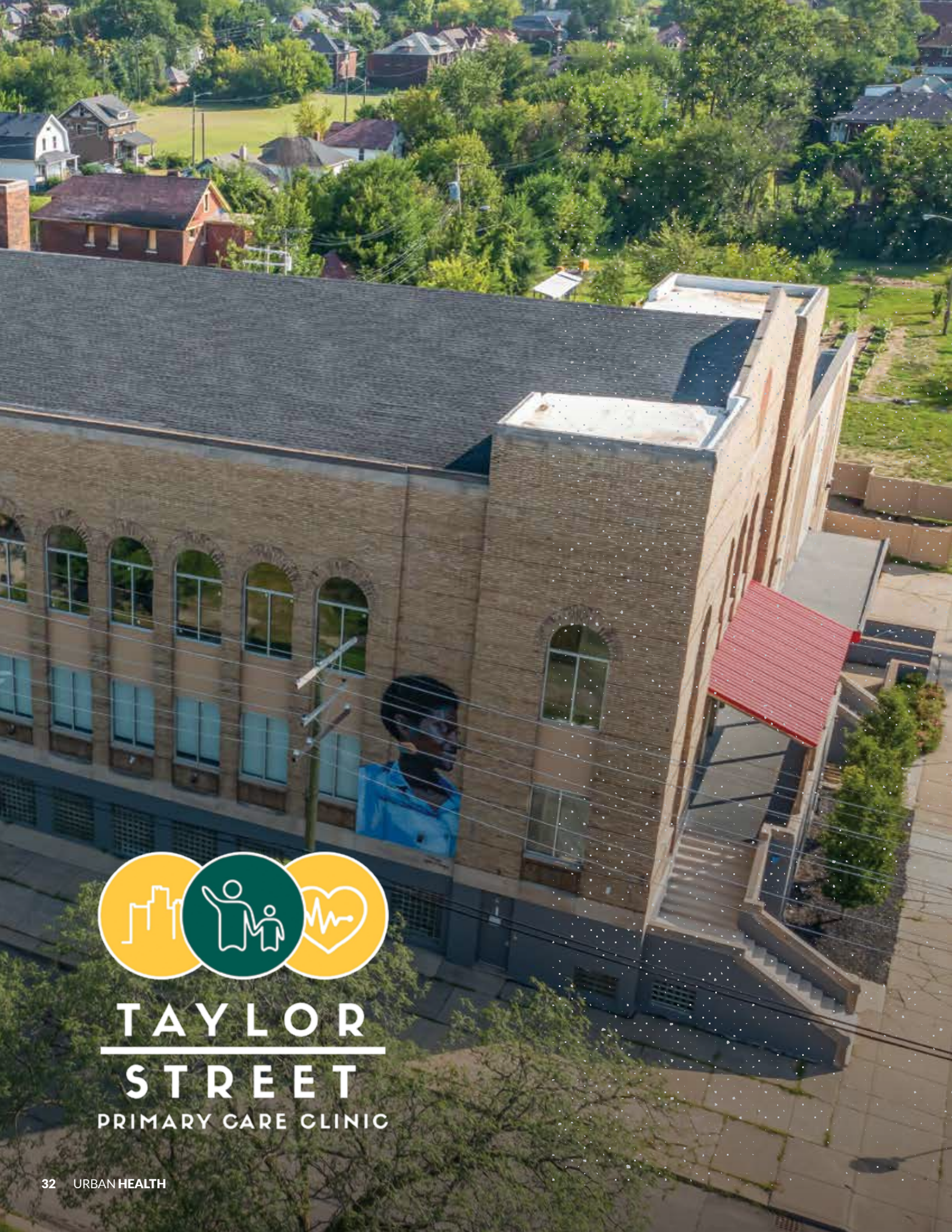
Wayne County Healthy Communities (WCHC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides healthcare services to community members regardless of their ability to pay. WCHC has clinic locations in Wayne County and Hamtramck with the goal to ensure patients from low-income backgrounds can receive quality healthcare. In her role as a Family Nurse Practitioner, Dr. Nancy George provides services involving diagnosing and managing acute and chronic conditions, promoting healthy lifestyles, and collaborating with other healthcare providers to address the holistic

needs of the diverse community they serve. This includes a focus on preventive care, chronic disease management and health education.

“Wayne Health Center plays a crucial role in the community by addressing healthcare disparities and providing much-needed services to vulnerable populations. By offering accessible, affordable healthcare, we not only improve individual health outcomes but also contribute to the overall well-being of the community,” Dr. George said. Most of the patients Dr. George sees at the center are from low-income backgrounds, uninsured and underinsured, facing economic challenges that increase poor health outcomes of all ages, she said.

“Our clinic serves as a vital resource for those who would otherwise struggle to access medical care,” said Dr. George. **“Growing up without health insurance, I experienced firsthand the challenges of navigating the healthcare system as an uninsured individual. This fueled my passion for working with underserved populations, ensuring that others do not face the same barriers to care that I did.”**





TAYLOR

STREET
PRIMARY CARE CLINIC

Oakman Medical



Faculty member: Clinical Instructor Randon Jenkins, DNP, RN, BSN, AGPCNP-BC

Role: Nurse Practitioner

Clinical Instructor Dr. Randon Jenkins serves as a Nurse Practitioner at the Oakman Medical pharmacy and clinic in East Dearborn, serving a majority Middle Eastern and North African immigrant patient population. Most patients are adults and adolescents from the surrounding neighborhoods who have recently arrived in the United States or are Medicare, Medicaid recipients. He said finding a way to serve this population in his career has been one of his goals for a long time.

“I have always worked with the Middle Eastern and North African community growing up on the borders of Detroit and Dearborn. Firsthand, I saw how members of this community are affected by discrimination,” said Dr. Jenkins. “I also completed my DNP project in this community on managing heart failure and depression, as managing heart failure was complicated by unmanaged depression and the stigma surrounding it.”

“Oakman medical has the impact of being a beacon for culturally competent care, assisting new immigrants in navigating the complexities of the US healthcare system, as well as increasing awareness and screenings for preventable illness and cancer,” said Dr. Jenkins.

Children’s Hospital of Michigan



Faculty member: Clinical Instructor Meghna Shukla, PhD, RN, CPNP-AC

Role: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in the Emergency Department

The Children’s Hospital of Michigan was one of the first children’s hospitals in Michigan. Since 1886, the Children’s Hospital of Michigan has provided care for families, children, and adolescents. A member of the Detroit Medical Center (DMC), their vision is to help children live happier, healthier lives. The Children’s Hospital of Michigan provides a full spectrum of services including general pediatrics, neurology, cardiovascular, fetal care, oncology, and other pediatric medical and surgical specialties to provide quality healthcare for children.

Clinical Instructor Dr. Meghna Shukla works in the hospital’s full spectrum emergency department as an acute care nurse practitioner. She chose to pursue this work based on influential experiences in her childhood and the impact pediatricians have on families. “I grew up in Detroit and wanted to give back to the community I grew up in, by taking care of some of its most vulnerable residents, the children of Detroit,” Dr. Shukla said.

In her role, she serves the pediatric population of the city of Detroit and surrounding metro Detroit areas. She can help manage acute care, chronic illness, and critical care.

“Children’s Hospital is the only urban, free-standing pediatric hospital in Michigan, and the only urban level 1 trauma Emergency Department. The hospital has 228 beds and cares for some of the sickest children not only from Detroit, but also from surrounding metro areas,” Dr. Shukla said. The emergency department includes pediatric care in a 24-hour emergency room catered to children, outpatient pediatric surgery and pediatric specialist offices. The emergency department itself sees approximately 60,000 patients per year, Dr. Shukla said.



Addressing the mental health stigma

By Ted Montgomery

“The Stigma Scholars program has moved the needle in a positive direction..”

In this post-pandemic world where economic realities have siphoned key mental health resources away from communities that need them the most, the Wayne State University College of Nursing has stepped up to the challenge of filling the gaps in mental health care access and coverage by providing services to underserved communities in Detroit.

Through the help of grants from the Nursing Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR) program in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the College of Nursing has developed an initiative that trains and certifies students as Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) instructors. Mental Health First aid is an evidence-based intervention that teaches the lay-person how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. Once trained, students can implement training programs among specific populations in the local community as part of their Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) projects addressing mental health stigma in underserved communities. This MHFA initiative involving DNP students was initially developed as part of the overall outcomes from the Strategic Integration to Grow Mental Health Access (St.I.G.M.A.) grant program awarded to the College of Nursing (2020-2024), which expanded mental health care access and transformed the Behavioral Health (BHI) workforce.

“One of the core missions of Wayne State’s College of Nursing is to provide comprehensive mental health services to

the communities we serve,” said Ramona Benkert, dean of the College of Nursing. “We see our role in transforming the Behavioral Health Intervention workforce not only as an institutional mission, but also a moral imperative. The Stigma Scholars program has moved the needle in a positive direction by bringing much-needed mental health first aid services to underserved communities.”

Principle Investigator for the HSRA funded St.I.G.M.A grant and Clinical Associate Professor Dr. Cynthera McNeill said that the scholars program was formed to increase the opportunity for DNP students to work beside doctorally prepared nurse practitioner faculty implementing quality improvement initiatives in and around the Detroit area. “This was an opportunity for faculty to role model the impact that doctorally prepared nurse practitioners could have on health outcomes in both the community and clinical practice,” she said.

McNeill came up with the original idea and procured the grant supporting the program, while Clinical Assistant Professors Dr. Tara Walker and Dr. Umeika Stephens managed the student and faculty components of the program. “It was definitely a team effort,” McNeill said. Fourteen students completed the Stigma Scholars program and seven of those students presented at the DNP project presentation forum held in December 2023 and three presented their projects in April 2024 .

McNeill added that it also created a space for doctoral students to work collaboratively with each other while still maintaining the

rigor of the doctoral program while the student explored their unique project focus. “The Stigma Scholars established a support network for doctoral students, which consisted of group meetings, professional development, networking and sharing of resources. They also received financial support for their doctoral projects. The Stigma Scholars initiative formalized an innovative model where faculty could work with large groups of DNP students simultaneously implementing quality improvement initiatives in numerous settings to address health disparities and move the mission of the College of Nursing forward.”

Mayche Vang-Kue is a recent DNP graduate who was born in Minnesota and raised in Wisconsin. She earned her undergraduate degree from the BSN program at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in 2009. “I spent time working as a registered nurse on a medical/surgical/oncology/hospice unit and in home care settings before specializing in psychiatric nursing in 2012. While working with an ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) Team, I developed a passion for mental health and working with underserved and underrepresented populations.

“I always knew I wanted to go back to school to receive the education and training needed to take on the expanded role of a nurse practitioner, but waited until my sons were older,” said Vang-Kue. “What was appealing about Wayne State was the rigorous graduate nursing program, the diverse student body and faculty, and its commitment to health equity in Detroit. After graduating from Wayne State’s MSN program in 2019, I came back in 2021 for the DNP program.”

While trying to decide on a rewarding DNP project Vang-Kue learned about the Stigma Scholars program at Wayne State. She chose a project to encourage mental health literacy and decrease stigma among the Hmong community, an issue close to her heart. “All I knew was that I wanted my project to target the local Hmong community in Metro Detroit and address mental health needs. After learning more about the goals of Stigma Scholars and Mental Health First Aid, it was apparent that implementing Mental Health First Aid into the local Hmong community could improve mental health literacy, decrease stigma, and equip individuals with the tools and skills needed to help those in mental distress.”

Vang-Kue points to an alarming statistic as one key reason why she and her fellow DNP students are committed to serving communities that so desperately need mental health care. “According to the National Institute of Mental Health, one in five adults in the United States suffers from mental illness,” she said. “This statistic speaks to the prevalence and pervasiveness of mental illness and is a call to action for the nursing profession to be prepared to care for and support those in our community.”

After completing her bachelor of science in nursing degree at the University of Windsor, close to her hometown of Essex, Ontario, Bryanna Currie wanted to pursue an education that would provide opportunities to educate future nurses and engage in advanced practice nursing. “There is currently no role that exists in Ontario to certify nurse practitioners in the specialty of psychiatric-mental health, which is why I sought practice and education

“When reviewing recent literature, I found that service providers often lack traditional and structured mental health training and support...”



in Detroit, Michigan,” Currie said. “Wayne State drew me in for many reasons, but especially for the fact that it provides a unique educational experience being in the heart of Detroit. Being an urban university, Wayne State interested me because it offered diverse clinical experiences and guaranteed clinical placements.”

Currie said the Stigma Scholars program provided an opportunity for additional support from clinical faculty and the ability to offer a quality improvement project that benefitted the metro-Detroit community. “The Stigma Scholars faculty provided support and supervision to all of the doctoral students in the program,” Currie said. “The intervention of the Stigma Scholars program, which was providing Mental Health First Aid training to a select population of individuals, provided evidence-based training to participants to identify and intervene when an individual is experiencing a mental health or substance-use crisis.

“I chose a DNP project that was using already available research to implement changes that impact nursing practices or patient outcomes,” Currie said. “My project identified a need for mental health services and intervention amongst the population of those surviving from human trafficking, domestic and sexual abuse. When reviewing recent literature, I found that service providers often lack traditional and structured mental health training and support, which is why I chose to provide Mental Health First Aid training to service providers of human trafficking, sexual and domestic abuse survivors.”

Currie said she believes strongly in the value of community mental health initiatives. “Community mental health initiatives are so important to not

only help prevent illness, but also to support the wellness and recovery of individuals experiencing mental illness or substance abuse issues. A proactive, upstream approach to treating individuals in the community helps to support individuals in an environment where they feel comfortable and divert crises and alleviate burdens on the hospital systems.”

McNeill reports that the program has made a positive difference in the communities it serves. “Each Stigma Scholar implemented an evidence-based Mental Health First Aid in separate and unique settings, which showed improvement in mental health literacy in a variety of different populations. Collectively, this grant-funded initiative addressed mental health stigma by training 516 community members in mental health first aid.”

In addition, McNeill said, plans are afoot to continue and expand the program. “The overall mentorship model of doctorally prepared faculty role-modeling quality improvement and working with groups of DNP students to implement quality improvement initiatives collectively to advance the mission of the College of Nursing has been incorporated in our two current grants, the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) grant funding from HRSA and our Community Level Innovations for Improving Health Outcomes funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Office of Minority Health,” McNeill said. “The GWEP grant is \$5 million over the next five years and groups of DNP students will be working with faculty to implement numerous quality improvement projects to improve the care of the aging population in Michigan.” The Community Level Innovations for Improving Health Outcomes funding is renewable for four years with a total award of over \$2 million and aims to reduce barriers to colorectal cancer screening and drug overdose prevention in metro Detroit within African American and Middle Eastern North African communities. DNP students will work alongside faculty to implement quality improvement initiatives to address health disparities and make meaningful impacts in the community. ^{UH}



STATE



A photograph of a person's arm with several tattoos, wearing an orange sleeve, positioned against a brick wall. The word 'UNIVERSITY' is partially visible in large white letters at the top of the image. The main title is centered over the image.

CD2 STUDENT **INSPIRES** RECOVERY EFFORTS

By Shawntay Lewis

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Second Career Degree student Ciarra Womack says advocating for patients begins with a conversation. When it's about recovering from addiction, it's especially important to include empathy, compassion, and collaboration to recognize the disease and seek out resources to address it.

"I think creating awareness of what addiction actually looks like, and helping people understand that it can be in any type of person is important," Womack said. "There's no specific look that goes with addiction. You have to be aware of that when you're assessing patients, that way we can get people help before it's too late."

Womack is a student leader of the Collegiate Recovery Program (CRP), a program funded by Wayne State University that provides resources and a supportive environment for students in recovery from substance abuse. The program has opportunities for students in recovery to engage in social events, volunteer opportunities, network, education and advocacy, and have access to a lounge space on campus that encourages college experiences without drugs and alcohol. It also acts as a hub for students in recovery to receive specialized support to reach their academic, personal and professional goals.

"As an organization, we have a few goals to create a safe environment for students in recovery, as college campuses are not super sober friendly, and dismantle the stigma associated with addiction and recovery by exposing students to what recovery looks like," Womack said. She was part of the first group of students in the CRP program after it was created in 2023, and helped form what is now the Warriors in Recovery student group within the program. One of her main reasons for becoming a student leader was the impact previous groups had on her recovery from alcoholism for over two years now.

"The Alcoholics Anonymous community played a major role in my recovery, and I've incorporated the principles into all aspects of my life. Without this program, I would

not be the successful student I am today," she said. "When I was accepted into the Wayne State nursing program, I searched for recovery groups on campus. The same semester I started at Wayne, the university had received funding for the CRP, and I've been involved ever since."

In Fall 2024, Womack became President of Warriors in Recovery and uses her role to lead addiction awareness and education efforts on campus. She extends health literacy on addiction through presenting in classrooms at the WSU School of Social Work and plans to share information to encourage more informed health and social service professionals.

"I think creating awareness of what addiction actually looks like, and helping people understand that it can be in any type of person is important."

"We host weekly meetings for students in recovery and we have been going into the classrooms of professions that will have direct contact with people in addiction and recovery to share our stories," Womack said. At the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year, the program moved into its own designated space in the Student Center to engage with more students. By facilitating meetings similar to Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous on Wayne State's campus, students in recovery have the opportunity to meet so they don't have to feel alone while maintaining sobriety, balancing schoolwork and a social life.

"Sobriety is not something that people do alone. You have to have a community to do that and there are not a lot of people in recovery meetings that are students, and there's not a ton of people on college campuses that are in recovery and open about it. It's kind of a time when you feel alone," Womack said.

Addressing this stage of recovery is part of her mission as a nurse. Womack currently works with women and children at Trinity Health Ann Arbor Hospital. In her nursing career, she's most interested in going into a labor and delivery specialty and pursuing a career as a Certified Nursing Midwife. She believes it's the best way she can directly leave an impact in the lives of mothers, specifically those recovering from addiction. Most meetings throughout her personal recovery have involved women. Womack understands

their vulnerability and is dedicated to working toward solutions to improve their health outcomes through nursing. “I’ve always been geared toward women’s health, and this really solidified that these are the types of people that I want to take care of,” Womack said.

College of Nursing Clinical Assistant Professor, Dr. Nicole Wheeler, Doctor of Nursing Practice and Certified Nursing Midwife, has been involved in various evidence-based research to improve women’s health outcomes and addressing the labor support, postpartum depression and health literacy for women. She said new mothers in early recovery address a crucial gap in healthcare that needs immediate attention from women’s healthcare professionals. Nurses and midwives serve as direct designated support for expecting mothers because mothers receive direct primary care, prenatal, obstetric care and gynecological care from them.

“Women who are battling addiction while also navigating motherhood face immense barriers, physically, emotionally, and socially. They often struggle with stigma, a lack of support systems, and the challenge of balancing their own recovery while caring for a newborn,” Dr. Wheeler said. “Nurses and midwives are in a unique position to address these struggles by providing compassionate care, education and advocacy to ensure these women receive holistic support.”

Womack has a major interest in pursuing a project to create a sober living space for moms who are in early recovery. This would specifically target infants born addicted to substances who have to withdraw in hospital before going home and their mothers, who are experiencing recovery and becoming a parent. This program would serve as an environment for social and health support for the moms to have an increased chance of sobriety.

“We get a lot of babies in the hospital that are born addicted to substances, and they have to withdraw in the hospital before they are able to go home. And then once they go home, there’s CPS involvement for the family,” she said. “I’ve noticed a lot of things that are done in those types of situations that make it really challenging for moms to stay sober. So, I would like to create a space where moms can go in between living independently with their kid and the hospital, in order to develop their parenting skills and their sobriety before going into living on their own.”

Dr. Wheeler said bridging the gaps for expecting mothers and providing support in postpartum care can create overall improvements in communities by supporting new mothers and their needs. Through finding solutions to address health disparities these mothers experience facing addiction, there is an opportunity to improve the quality of life for infants subsequently.

“It is especially vital in our urban communities to increase resources and health literacy for these mothers,” Dr. Wheeler said. “By empowering women with the knowledge and tools they need to care for themselves and their infants, we not only improve health outcomes, but also break cycles of addiction and trauma, benefiting future generations. Bridging these gaps is essential for equitable health care, creating spaces where these women can heal, recover, and thrive as new mothers without fear of judgment or exclusion.”

Womack said because of her personal experience and nursing education, she is able to approach patients with less judgment and open arms to their addiction and recovery. She is also able to detect habits that other healthcare professionals may not see right away without the education. “I see addiction a lot more than I think a lot of people recognize. I can recognize it pretty quickly, just because I’ve been through it personally, so I am able to offer a channel of help to that person,” Womack said. “I definitely think that it allows me to be more understanding of what patients are going through.”

Womack’s ability to create new ideas and solutions to address patient populations requiring urgent resources and health literacy, and direct support from healthcare professionals is an example of a nursing student’s drive to improve health outcomes for patients in their career and community. The College of Nursing’s mission to educate and prepare students to become clinicians, scholars and leaders who improve health outcomes in local and global communities aligns well with Womack’s mission, said Dr. Wheeler.

“I am deeply inspired by Ciarra’s passion for improving women’s health outcomes, especially for those recovering from substance abuse,” Dr. Wheeler said. “Her vision of creating a sober living space for new mothers in early recovery addresses a crucial gap in women’s health care that needs immediate attention in the City of Detroit.” ^{UH}

Remembering Dr. April Vallerand

We are heartbroken to share the news that College of Nursing Alumni Endowed Professor and PhD Program Director April Vallerand, PhD, RN, FAAN, passed away on Friday, March 8, 2024.

Dr. Vallerand joined the College of Nursing in 1999 and made a profound impact on students, colleagues and the community for more than 25 years as a faculty member and researcher at Wayne State University.

She was a leader in the college whose research sought to clarify the balance between pain relief and maintaining functionality to enable patients to lead meaningful lives despite chronic pain. Her thoughtful approach to research and pursuit of helping those in pain inspired her colleagues and scores of future nurses. As a dedicated educator and mentor, Dr. Vallerand helped countless students find their passion for research and build impactful careers in nursing science.

“Dr. Vallerand was a national expert on the science of pain management among underserved and low-resourced communities, and her research was instrumental to a national agenda to eliminate disparities in pain care,” said Interim Dean of the College of Nursing Ramona Benkert, PhD, ANP-BC, FAANP. “Dr. Vallerand and her colleagues fought for an aggressive policy, advocacy and research agenda, and her legacy will impact the care of individuals with pain for decades to come. She touched so many lives at our college and far beyond, and she will be greatly missed.”

“As a longstanding member of the faculty, April was widely known across campus for her collaborative approach to interdisciplinary research and her support for doctoral education,” said WSU Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Laurie Lauzon Clabo, PhD, RN, FAAN. “In 2017, she was awarded the title of distinguished professor in recognition of her impressive contributions in research. She was a valuable member of the Warrior community, and her impact will continue to be felt on campus and beyond.” [UH](#)



FACULTY ACCOLADES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Faculty Accolades and Accomplishments



Katherine Balint

Publications

Swider, S., Balint, K. et al (2024) Reimaging graduate education for advanced public health nursing (APHN), White Paper, Association of Community Health Nursing Educator, Jan 11, 2024.

Presentations

Saad, A., K. Balint, The Current State and Future of the Healthcare Workforce in Michigan: Shortages, Opportunities, and Potential Solutions. Referred: Session Presentation, Nexus Summit 2024. Saad A., Balint, K-. Empowering Health Professional Students to Care for Underserved Communities: The Michigan AHEC Scholars Program: Referred: Session Presentation, Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, & Research Center 15th Annual Conference 2024. Balint, K. Workforce Challenges and Solutions, MI AHEC. Referred: Panel Session. Tribal Healthcare Workforce Summit 2024.

Awards

Michigan Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Award of Excellence 2024; Academic Public Health Nursing

New appointment

Michigan Public Health Association Board Member at Large 2024-2025



Lisa Blair

Awards

Awarded a funded extension to pilot study at the University of Kentucky Cannabis Center: Perinatal Cannabis Use: Genomic Extension.

Publications

Solberg, M. A., Schlegel, E. C., Spurlock, E. J., Blair, L. M., & Nowak, A. L. (2024). Fostering early career nursing faculty support in the academy: The power of "Academic Therapy." Nurse Educator. DOI: 10.1097/NNE.0000000000001504

Solberg, M. A., Blair, L. M., Schlegel, E. C., & Kurzer, J. A. M.* (2023). Health disparities among sexual and gender minorities with adverse childhood experiences: Insights from the 2021 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data. American Journal of Public Health, 113(12): 1343-1351. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2023.307420>

Pasman, E., Blair, L., Solberg, M. A., McCabe, S. E., Schepis, T. S., & Resko, S. M. (2024). The substance use disorder treatment gap among US college students: Findings from the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dadr.2024.100279>

Presentations

Blair's research was presented at 10 conferences, a colloquium, and a webinar (with CEU), including 3 invited presentations, 3 international/national, 6 regional/local. Seven of these included CON students.

Blair, L. M., & Ashford, K. (2024). Perinatal cannabis use in central Kentucky: A mixed methods approach. University of Kentucky Substance Use Research Event, Lexington, KY.

Blair, L. M. & Ashford, K. (2023). Implications of smoke-free policy on neonatal and maternal outcomes. Kentucky Department of Public Health. Lexington, KY.

Blair, L. M., Dailey, R., Lee, B. A., & Ashford, K. (2024). Perinatal cannabis: State of the science and motivations for change. Wayne State University College of Nursing Colloquium, Detroit, MI.

Solberg, M. A. & Blair, L. M. (2023). Adverse childhood experiences and health outcomes among a nationally representative sample of sexual minority women in the United States.

Royal College of Nursing Annual International Research Conference, Manchester, England, United Kingdom. Solberg, M. A., Kurzer, J. A. M., & Blair, L. M. (2024). Past-year substance use patterns among sexual minority persons in the United States. Midwest Nursing Research Society, 48th Annual Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Solberg, M. A. & Blair, L. M. (2023). Adverse childhood experiences and behavioral health outcomes among sexual minority men. 37th Annual American Psychiatric Nurses Association Conference, Orlando, FL.

DESIGN ELEMENTS

Blair, L. M., Rademacher, K., Ducas, T., Jones, A., & Ashford, K. (2024). Prenatal cannabis: Motivations and use patterns in pregnancy. 86th Annual Scientific Meeting, College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Montreal, Canada.

El-Sharif, O., Degrosky, D., Xiong, L., & Blair, L. M. (2024). Misconceptions and Education Needs Relating to Prenatal Cannabis Exposure & Infant Outcomes: A Systematic Review. [Poster]. Wayne State University 4th Annual Pediatric Research Day, Detroit, MI.

Stryd, S. & Blair, L. M. (2024). Cervical cancer disparities in African Americans with Medicaid: Integrative review. Urban Health Conference, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.

Kurzer, J. A. M., Blair, L. M., & Solberg, M. A. (2024). The influence of personal, peer, and parental attitudes on youth marijuana use. Midwest Nursing Research Society, Minneapolis, MN.

La, K. & Blair, L. M. (2023). Gun violence prevention: An integrative review. [Poster]. University of Michigan Ambulatory Care Conference, Ann Arbor, MI.

La, K. & Blair, L. M. (2023). Gun violence prevention: An integrative review. [Poster]. Henry Ford Health Research Conference, Detroit, MI



Seung Hee Choi

Grants

2024–2025 Choi, SH. Principal Investigator – WeQuit: A pilot trial of a tailored web app for smoker couples. Co-Investigator: Yarandi, H., Ledgerwood, D., Zhang, X. Funded by:

University Research Grant, Wayne State University

2024–2025 Choi, SH. Principal Investigator – WeQuit: An automated, tailored web app for smoker couples. Co-Investigator: Yarandi, H. Funded by: STT Lambda Chapter

2024–2025 Choi, SH. Principal Investigator – Impact of frequency of distributing gift cards on engagement of a web-app for smoking cessation. Co-Investigator: Yarandi, H. Funded by: Harriet H. Werley Faculty Research Award

2024–2024 Choi, SH. Faculty Mentor – Incentives and attrition in a web-based intervention for smoking cessation. Student: Dillon Glenn. Funded by: UROP, Wayne State University

Publications

Choi, SH., Templin, T. (2023). College Students' Preferences for Smoking Cessation Interventions: A Discrete Choice Experiment. *Health Education Research*. 38(6): 563-574.

Choi, SH., Templin, T., & Marrocco, A.** (2023) Development of an online discrete choice experiment to elicit preferences for tobacco treatment among college students. *Journal of American College Health*.

Kim, W., Choi, SH. (2023). Smoking, stress, and health risk behaviors during the early phase of COVID-19 lockdown among residents of Flint, Michigan. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*.

Presentations

November 2023–Development of an online discrete choice experiment to examine preferences of couple-based smoking cessation interventions during online video interviews. Choi, SH. & Templin, T. Refereed. Podium Presentation, 14th International Nursing Conference. Seoul, Korea.

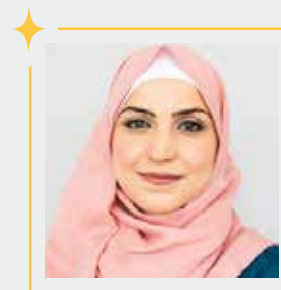
Local, Regional conferences: April 2024 - User evaluation and feasibility test of a tailored web app for smoker couples.

Choi, SH., Zhang, X., Dajani, S. Refereed. Poster Presentation, Urban Health Research Conference. Detroit, MI.

March 2024 - Incentives and attrition in a web-based intervention for smoking cessation. Glenn, D., * Choi, SH. Refereed. Poster Presentation, Warrior Scholar Conference. Detroit, MI.

AWARDS

Outstanding Alumna
Inha University



Maha Albdour

Recognition

Submitted a grant to NIH. Albdour, M., Principal Investigator – (R01 GRANT14267491). The Impact of Psychosocial Stress on Stress Biomarkers, Internalizing, and Externalizing Problems of Arab American Adolescents: Role of Adolescent-Father-Mother Relationship. Co-Investigators: Khalil, D., Yarandi, H., Lumley, M, Zilioli, S. (NICHD)

Publications

Albdour, M., Jenuwine, E. S., & Hong, J. S. (2024). Consequences of high school bullying on stress and health of Arab American college students. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing*, 37(1), e12453. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcap.12453>.

Shahrour, G. & Albdour, M. (forthcoming). Jordan. In J.S. Hong,

R. Thornberg, V.J. Llorent & Z. Han (Eds.), *Bullying of children and adolescents: A global perspective*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Publications

Albdour, M., Jenuwine, E. S., & Hong, J. S. (2024). Consequences of high school bullying on stress and health of Arab American college students. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing*, 37(1), e12453. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcap.12453>.

Shahrour, G. & Albdour, M. (forthcoming). Jordan. In J.S. Hong, R. Thornberg, V.J. Llorent & Z. Han (Eds.), *Bullying of children and adolescents: A global perspective*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Presentations

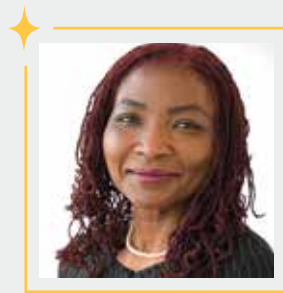
October 2024: Examining the effect of a novel stress reduction intervention on the control of prediabetes: A feasibility study. Albdour, M., Lumley, M., Jaber, L., Burghardt, P.; Poster presentation, Arab American Summit; Dearborn, MI

October 2024: Consequences of high school bullying on stress and health of Arab American college students. Albdour, M., Jenuwine, E. S., & Hong, J. S.; Poster presentation; Arab American Summit; Dearborn, MI

April 2024: Medical Mistrust among minority young adults. Albdour, M., Gibson-Scipio, W., Shukla, M. Invited; Panel Discussion. *Contemporary Issues in Urban Health*; Detroit, MI

Promotions

Assistant professor to associate professor promotion
Appointed as the PhD program director



Angela Bowman

Grants

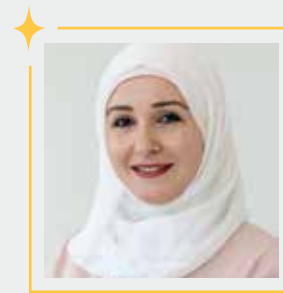
Co-Investigator for the 2024-2028 – Building Relationships to Impact Disparities and Generate Equity (B.R.I.D.G.E). McNeill, C. Principal Investigator; Funded by: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Minority Health (OMH) (\$2,399,360)



Erik Carter

Grants

Co-Investigator for the 2024-2028 – Building Relationships to Impact Disparities and Generate Equity (B.R.I.D.G.E). McNeill, C. Principal Investigator; Funded by: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Minority Health (OMH) (\$2,399,360)



Khalil Dalia

Publications

Hinchey, L. M., Khalil, D., & Javanbakht, A. (2023). Practical approaches to conducting biopsychosocial research with refugee and internally displaced communities. *Comprehensive Psychoneuroendocrinology*

Wheeler, J.M., LaManna, J., Esparza, L., Khalil, D., Davis, J.W., Xie, R., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2024). A mixed methods approach to understand mother-father relationship and perceived stress among Black pregnant women. *Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing*, 38(3). 256-270.

Khalil, D., George, Z., Dannaway., Hijawi, J., ElFishawy, S., Jenuwine, E. (2024). Maternal Stressors and Maternal Bonding Among Immigrant and Refugee Arab Americans Resettled in the United States. *Research in Nursing and Health*.

Khalil, D., George, Z., Templin, T., Jenuwine, E., Javanbakht, A. (2023). Perceived Adversity and Psychological Distress in Refugee Married Couples Resettling in the United States. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*. 69(5)

Presentations

September 2024; Psychological Symptoms and Telomere Length in Refugee and Immigrant Mothers

and their Children. Refereed - Symposium session. Khalil, D., Javanbakht, A., Partridge R., and Jenuwine, E. International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) Boston, MA

September 2024; Motherhood in the Shade of Migration. Invited: Podium presentation. Khalil, D. 2024 Immigrant & Refugee Health Conference, Pittsburgh, PA

June 2024; Ideal-Type Analysis: An Innovative Methodology to Understand Mother-Father Relationship and Perceived Stress among Black Pregnant Women. Refereed - Podium presentation. Wheeler, J.M, Esparza, L, Khalil, D, Giurgescu, C, & Kavanaugh, K.; Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) Washington, D.C.

April 2024; Psychological Symptoms and Telomere Length in Refugee and Immigrant Mothers and their Children. Refereed - Symposium session. Khalil, D., Javanbakht, A., Partridge R., and Jenuwine, E. Anxiety and Depression Association of America; Boston, MA

March 2024; Psychosocial Factors and Telomere Length among Parents and Infants of immigrant Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Families. Invited - Symposium session. Khalil, D. American Psychosomatic Society; Brighton, UK

June 2023; Depressive symptoms across pregnancy in Black women. Refereed - Poster presentation. Vaughan S, Khalil D, Hyer S, Saadat N, Misra D, and Giurgescu C., Society of Epidemiological Research (SER) Annual Meeting. Portland, OR

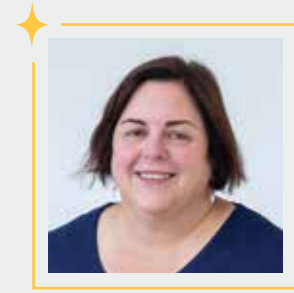
April 2023; Impact of environmental factors on psychopathology among MENA refugees after resettlement to the United States. Invited - Symposium session. Grasser, L., Izar, R., Abdirahman, O., Khalil, D., and Javanbakht, A. Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture and the Society for Psychological Anthropology. San Diego, CA

February 2024; Maternal Stressors and Maternal Bonding Among Immigrant and Refugee Arab American Mothers Resettled in the United States. Refereed - Paper presentation. Khalil, D., *George, Z., Dannaway, E., Hijawi, J., ElFishawy, S., & Jenuwine, E. Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) 48th Annual Research Conference. Minneapolis, MN

September 2023; Parenting and Motherhood in the Shade of Migration. Invited - Training session. Khalil, D. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) Behavioral Health Training Series for social workers. Detroit, MI

April 2023; Medical Posttraumatic Stress and its Effect on Children and Parents: A Systematic Review. Refereed - Poster presentation. *Hague,T., and Khalil, D. Contemporary Issues in Urban Health Conference. Detroit, MI

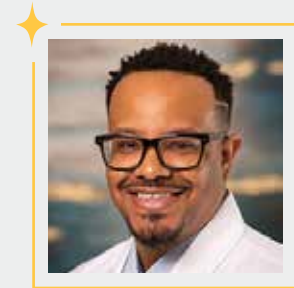
April 2023; Psychosocial Factors and Telomere Length among Immigrant Arab American Mother-Father-Infant Triads. Refereed - Poster presentation. Khalil, D., Giurgescu, C., Misra, D., Templin, T., & Jenuwine, E., Drury, S. Contemporary Issues in Urban Health Conference. Detroit, MI



Nancy George

Grants

Co-Investigator for the 2024-2028 – Building Relationships to Impact Disparities and Generate Equity (B.R.I.D.G.E). McNeill, C. Principal Investigator; Funded by: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Minority Health (OMH) (\$2,399,360)



Randon Jenkins

Grants

Co-Investigator for the 2024-2028 – Building Relationships to Impact Disparities and Generate Equity (B.R.I.D.G.E). McNeill, C. Principal Investigator; Funded by: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Minority Health (OMH) (\$2,399,360)



Bincy Joshwa

Publications

Joshwa, B., Zimmerman, R.S., Malek, M., Yarandi, H. N., Campbell, M.L. (under review). Psychometric Properties of the PROMIS CAT-Fatigue in individuals on Hemodialysis. *Nephrology Nursing Journal*.

Presentations

Joshwa, B., Schutte, L. D., Thomas, M., Bhardwaj, V., Kottappalli, T., Matos, G.O., Provenzano, C., Yarandi, H., Malek, M.H., Zimmerman, R., Badr, S. M. (2024, Oct 21-24). Trajectory patterns and factors predicting fatigue in individuals on Hemodialysis: A preliminary analysis of a repeated measures study. [Oral presentation (recorded)]. European Dialysis and Transplantation Nurses Association/ European Renal Care Association Conference 2024, Athens, Greece.

Joshwa, B., Schutte, L. D., Thomas, M., Bhardwaj, V., Kottappalli, T., Matos, G.O., Provenzano, C., Yarandi, H., Malek, M.H., Zimmerman, R., Badr, S. M. (2024, Feb 19-21). Use of actigraphy in individuals on Hemodialysis treatment: A preliminary analysis of a repeated measures study. [Poster presentation]. Actigraph Digital Data Summit 2024, Pensacola, Florida, USA.

Joshwa, B., Peters, R.M., Zimmerman, R.S., Malek, M.,

Yarandi, H. N., Campbell, M.L. Psychometric Properties of the PROMIS CAT-Fatigue in individuals on Hemodialysis. (Poster presentation). Urban Health Conference 2024, Michigan.

Joshwa, B., Schutte, L. D., Thomas, M., Bhardwaj, V., Kottappalli, T., Matos, G.O., Provenzano, C., Yarandi, H., Malek, M.H., Zimmerman, R., Badr, S. M. (2024, Feb 19-21). Use of actigraphy in individuals on Hemodialysis treatment: A preliminary analysis of a repeated measures study. [Poster presentation] Urban Health Research Conference 2024, Michigan.



Mary Anne McCoy

Presentations

MICNP 23rd Annual Conference Grand Rapids, MI, October 2024 Atrial Fibrillation the tsunami of the Future. Three Hour Pre-Conference Workshop.



Cynthera McNeill

Grants

2024-2028 McNeill, C. Principal

Investigator – Building Relationships to Impact Disparities and Generate Equity (B.R.I.D.G.E) *Co-Investigators:* George, N., Stephens, U., Walker, T., Carter, E., Bowman, A. & Jenkins, R. Funded by: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Minority Health (OMH) (\$2,399,360)

2024-2029 McNeill, C. Principal Investigator – Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP): Applied Gerontology Research and Education to Eliminate Disparities (A.G.R.E.E.D) *Co-Investigators:* Pragnesh, P., Bins-Emerick, L., Garwood, C., Hopp, F., Adamo, D. & Saad, A. Funded by: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) (\$4,927,757)

Publications

Refereed Journals; McNeill, C. George, N., Stephens, U. and Walker, T. (2024). Teaching evidence-based practice to MSN, DNP and PhD students: Lessons learned. *Association of Black Nursing Faculty Foundation Journal* ISSN: 3064-9927

Vang-Kue, M., McNeill, C., Stephens, U. (2024). Improving Mental Health Literacy and Stigma Among the Hmong. *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association*. 2024;0(0). doi:10.1177/10783903241277344

Contreras, M., McNeill, C., Smolenski, S., and DiFiore, D. (2024), Use of Teach-Back by Care Coordinators During Health Teachings to Improve Self Care of Heart Failure Patients. *Collaborative Case Management*. (90), 3-14

McNeill, C., Walker, T., & Stephens, U. (2023). Reflective journaling: Assessing competencies for advanced practice nursing

students. Nurse Educator 10.1097/
NNE.0000000000001369.
Advance online publication.
[https://doi.org/10.1097/
NNE.0000000000001369](https://doi.org/10.1097/
NNE.0000000000001369)

Presentations

June 2024; Teaching evidence-
based practice to MSN, DNP and
PhD students: Lessons learned
McNeill, C. George, N., Stephens, U.
and Walker, T. Refereed

Since Fall 2023; Podium
Presentation. Association of Black
Nursing Faculty. Madrid, Spain

Awards

2024 Nightingale Award: Nursing
Research

Promotions

2024 Promoted to Associate
Professor (Clinical)



Leanne Nantais-Smith

Appointments

Serving as Chair of the National
Association of Neonatal Nurses-
Advance Practice (NANN-AP)
Council effective 9/23/2024 for a
two-year term and member of the
NANN Board of Directors.

Christine Newman

Awards

National Association of Neonatal
Nurses Mentor of the Year Award at
National convention, Sept 2024



Rosalind Peters

Publications

Bastien, D.J. & Peters, R.M.
(2024) The effectiveness of a
human trafficking protocol in the
emergency department: A 5-year
retrospective analysis. Journal of
Nursing Care Quality, doi: 10.1097/
NCQ.0000000000000797

Solberg, M. A., Peters, R. M.,
Templin, T. N., & Albdour, M.
M. (2024). The relationship of
adverse childhood experiences
and emotional distress in
young adults. Journal of the
American Psychiatric Nurses
Association. 30(3):532-544. doi:
10.1177/10783903221140325.

Solberg, M.A., Carr, K., & Peters,
R.M. (2024). Adverse childhood
experiences and health outcomes
among sexual and gender minorities.
Journal of Child and Adolescent
Trauma, 17 (2), 627-639 doi:
10.1007/s40653-023-00576-4.

Solberg, M.A., Peters, R.M., Resko,
S., Templin, T. (2023). Does coping
mediate the relationship between
adverse childhood experiences and
health outcomes in young adults?
Journal of Child and Adolescent
Trauma, 16 (3), 615-627 doi:
10.1007/s40653-023-00527-z



Stacey Sears

Publications

Sears, S. M., Coughlin, A. K., Nelson,
K., Stillwell, T., Carlton, E. F., & Flori,
H. R. (2024). Barriers and facilitators
to effective electronic health
record-based sepsis screening in the
pediatric intensive care unit. JAMIA
open, 7(3), ooae048. [https://doi.
org/10.1093/jamiaopen/ooae04](https://doi.
org/10.1093/jamiaopen/ooae04)

Presentations

Sepsis. 9th Annual PCCM Clinical/
Translational Research and Quality
Symposium. February 2024

Revolutionizing Pediatric Care

Modification of The Pediatric
Best Practice Alert System (BPAs)
to drive improvement in the
morbidity and mortality from sepsis
in pediatric patients. Dr. Stacey
Sears & Sarah Poley. Critical Care
Conference: A Cut Above. March
2024

Distinguishing Sepsis Guidelines
Pediatrics vs. Adults. Drs. Stacey
Sears & Sally Villasenor. October
2024

Pediatric Sepsis: Embracing
New Definitions and Advancing
Strategies. Drs. Stacey Sears &
Jourdan Butchin. MI NAPNAP
October 2024

Awards

Recipient of the Lisa Milonovich
Acute Care PNP SIG Scholar Award,
which recognizes one AC PNP SIG

member each year who contributes to the advancement of AC PNP's. National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP). March 2024.

Promotions

Promoted from Instructor (clinical) to Assistant Professor (clinical)

Appointments

Co-Chair Pediatric Emergency Care Special Interest Group, NAPNAP.

Advanced Practice Nurse Professional Practice Ladder, Expert Level. Michigan Medicine, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

Navdeep Singh



Publications

Published an editorial for the American Society of Pain Management in Nursing (ASPMN) for Dr. Vallerand. [https://www.painmanagementnursing.org/article/S1524-9042\(24\)00228-5/fulltext](https://www.painmanagementnursing.org/article/S1524-9042(24)00228-5/fulltext)

Presentations

Revolutionizing Pediatric Care: Modification of The Pediatric Best Practice Alert System (BPAs) to drive improvement in the morbidity and mortality from sepsis in pediatric patients.

Recognition

Earned Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) credentials

Appointment

Lead for the Pharmacology

subgroup for American Society of Pain Management in Nursing (ASPMN)

Stefan Smolenski

Publications



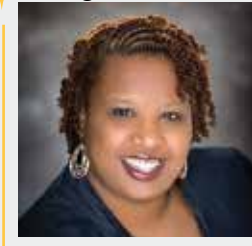
A

student published a manuscript with Dr. McNeil - Contreras, M.J, McNeil, C & Smolenski, S. (January 2024) Use of Teach-Back by the Care Coordinators to Improve Self Care of CHF Patients. Collaborative Case Management

Umeika Stephens

Grants

Co-Investigator for the 2024-

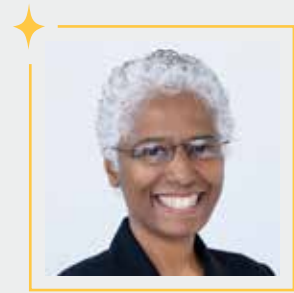


2028 - Building Relationships to Impact Disparities and Generate Equity (B.R.I.D.G.E). McNeill, C. Principal Investigator; Funded by: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Minority Health (OMH) (\$2,399,360)

Elisa Torres

Grants

2024-current; Brumley, K. Principal



Investigator - STEM Intersectional Equity in Departments. Funded by: National Science Foundation's ADVANCE program (\$1.2 million) Percent effort: 1.63%

Presentations

Pediatric Sepsis: Embracing New Definitions and Advancing Strategies. Drs. Stacey Sears & Jourdan Butchin. MI NAPNAP October 2024

Sally Villasenor

Recognition

Participating in a 2-year fellowship



with the Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL) as an "Online Course Quality Fellow" and has become a certified Quality Matters (QM) Peer Reviewer for online and hybrid courses and completed training with the Online Learning consortium (OLC). <https://otl.wayne.edu/grants/online-course-quality>

Publications

Creating new and updating old drug monographs for the upcoming Davis's Drug Guide 20th edition as a subject matter expert after serving as consultant for the 18th and 19th editions.

Vallerand, A.H., & Sanoski, C.A. (2022). Davis's drug guide for nurses (19th), Philadelphia, FA Davis Company. ISBN 10: 1719650039. <https://www.drugguide.com/>

Edited chapters in the upcoming Sewell 7th edition "Informatics and nursing: opportunities and challenges" text anticipated for publication in October 2024:

Villaseñor, S. (2024). Patient Empowerment. In Sewell J. P. & Thede L. Q. (2024). Informatics and nursing: opportunities and challenges (7th ed.). Wolters Kluwer Health/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Villaseñor, S. (2024). Interoperability. In Sewell J. P. & Thede L. Q. (2024). Informatics and nursing: opportunities and challenges (7th ed.). Wolters Kluwer Health/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Presentations

3-hour workshop at the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners (MICNP) 2023 Annual Conference "Bone Up on Musculoskeletal Assessment" (October 2023) and presented at the MICNP 2024 Annual Conference (October 2024) with colleague Stacey Sears "Distinguishing Sepsis Guidelines: Pediatrics vs. Adults". <https://micnp.org/page/agenda>

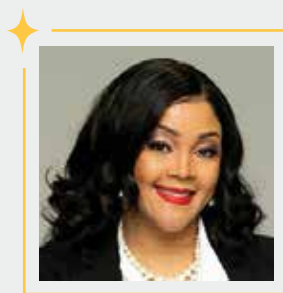
Recognition

Villaseñor became National League of Nursing (NLN) Certified Nursing Educators (CNE) as part of a university assessment grant received for the Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education (GCNE) Program.

Tara Walker

Grants

Co-Investigator for the 2024-



2028 - Building Relationships to Impact Disparities and Generate Equity (B.R.I.D.G.E). McNeill, C. Principal Investigator; Funded by: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Minority Health (OMH) (\$2,399,360)

Nicole Wheeler

Publications

Giles, A., Prusinski, R., & Wallace, L.



(2024). Maternal Newborn Nursing . OpenStax. <https://openstax.org/details/books/maternal-newborn-nursing>

Author of Chapter 23: Newborn Assessment

Author of Chapter 22: Immediate Newborn Care (Immediate Care of the Newborn in the First 24 Hours)

Recognition

Inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Nurse Midwives.

Certified as a Certified Nurse Educator by National League of Nurses

Promotions

Promoted to Assistant Professor

Zeynep Zonp

Publications

Uysal Yalçın, S., & Zonp, Z. (2024).



Intimate partner violence and women's mental health during the pandemic. *Journal of Psychiatric Nursing*, 15(1). <https://doi.org/10.14744/phd.2023.21957>.

Dinc, S., Uysal Yalçın, S., Zonp, Z., Gozen, D. (2023). Perceived stigma of nurses working in a pandemic hospital. *The Journal of Istanbul Rumeli University Health Sciences*, 1(3): 27-43.

Bozkurt, R., Terzioğlu, F., Uysal Yalçın, S., Zonp, Z., Akkoç, M., Sinko, L., & Saint Arnault, D. M. (2023). Healing After Violence: The Effect of Perception of Social Support on Posttraumatic Growth in Female University Students. *Violence Against Women*, 1-23. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012231214771>.

Presentations

Inan Budak, M., Zonp, Z., Köse, A.M., Saint Arnault, D. (November 2023). A Study on the Validity And Reliability of Social Support For Transactions Scale in Turkish Gender-Based Violence Sample (Oral Presentation). 7th International 11th National Psychiatric Nurses Conference, Ankara, Türkiye.

Promotions

Visiting Assistant Professor to Assistant Professor



WAYNE STATE
College of Nursing

5557 Cass Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48202

nursing.wayne.edu
con@wayne.edu

SAVE THE DATE
Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Contemporary Issues in Urban Health

Advancing Health Equity through Community
Engaged Research and Innovation

Researchers, practitioners and scholars from all disciplines are invited to participate in an engaging conference focused on developing partnerships between researchers, clinicians, and community members to promote health and advance health equity. Presentations, panel discussions, and breakout sessions covering a wide range of topics, will provide conference attendees with the opportunity to: explore the importance of engaging community partners in designing health research and interventions; describe strategies to encourage vulnerable populations to participate in health research, and discuss strategies for developing collaborative relationships with community health centers.

Application for Continuing Education contact hours will be submitted to the Ohio Nurses Association, an Ohio Board of Nursing approver (OBN-001-91).

**SCAN FOR
MORE DETAILS**



Questions? If you have questions, please call 313-577-4134 or email urbanhealthconf@wayne.edu