



CHRISTINE E. LYNN
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Florida Atlantic University



Community Engagement Report

FY 2022-2023



A Message from the Dean



Across Florida Atlantic's campuses, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing is working to meet the growing need for registered nurses in South Florida and beyond. Our talented students are actively engaged throughout our community at local clinics and health care facilities, helping to expand access to care in the region, especially in innovative ways.

Researchers in the College of Nursing have received a four year, \$3.9 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services for a nurse-led mobile health unit to create healthier populations in rural and medically underserved areas. FAU will work with its new and current community partners on nursing

student academic service learning projects and longitudinal clinical experiences through primary and behavioral care services.

The Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center is also expanding its services in South Florida. Faculty and staff are working to create additional clinical, educational and research projects with ACTS (St. Andrew's Estates) in Boca Raton. They are also finalizing a satellite Wellness Center which is expected to open on FAU's Davie campus in the coming months.

On an international level, through FAU's Center for Global Engagement Abroad, faculty leaders from the disciplines of nursing, social work and medicine are collaborating to establish a summer study abroad program in Armenia, Colombia. Additionally, nursing faculty and students traveled to Antigua, Guatemala, in February where they helped care for over 400 patients.

The College of Nursing is tremendously aided as a result of outstanding community partnerships. They provide opportunities for real-world practice, service-learning, nursing research, as well as crucial funding. The College is grateful to our donors and valued clinical partners, including Memorial Healthcare System, Baptist Health and HCA Florida Healthcare.

Our dedication to serving and caring for our community remains unwavering. We look forward to strengthening our educational programs and community outreach in the coming months.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Safiya George'.

Safiya George, Ph.D., APRN-BC, FAANP, FAAN, FNAP
Holli Rockwell Trubinsky Eminent Dean and Professor

Meet the Community Engagement Team



As the Assistant Dean for Strategic Affairs and Public Engagement, Suzanne Ffolkes meets with community leaders and influencers to explore opportunities for partnerships with FAU's Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing. She also oversees marketing and communications for the College and assists with the implementation of team projects in support of the College's strategic plan.

"The College of Nursing has a strong community presence through our clinics, research activities and engagement with clinical partners," said Suzanne. "We will continue to expand our outreach to help nursing students achieve their full potential and have the skills and training necessary to join the workforce. I enjoy collaborating with our partners in support of student success initiatives."

Previously, Suzanne served as a senior communications advisor for C-suite executives and board members at scientific societies and research advocacy organizations, and facilitated science communications workshops for faculty and students at research institutions across the U.S. She received her master's degree in public communications at American University in Washington, D.C. and obtained a strategic leadership certificate from Harvard Division of Continuing Education at Harvard University.



Marcie Hall is the Director of Development in FAU's Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing. She works to cultivate and sustain positive and productive relationships with various stakeholders, including board members, volunteers, civic and business leaders, as well as donors.

"I personally meet with community leaders and donors to share the impact of dollars raised for needed resources that improve our students' learning experiences," shared Marcie. "When our students are successful and graduate to become part of the nursing workforce, that ultimately leads to the overall improvement and quality of our community's health. It's especially important now as our region — and our nation — is facing a critical nursing shortage."

Marcie has worked with national renowned nonprofit healthcare organizations, and she is a Certified Fund-Raising Executive (CFRE) with over \$120 million in successful fundraising. In 2015, she received a master's degree in nonprofit management from Florida Atlantic University.

Meet the Community Engagement Team



Jeaneen Muller joined FAU's College of Nursing in 2019, initially working with Eminent Scholar Dr. Ruth Tappen. In 2022, she transitioned to her current position as the College's Engagement Coordinator. In this role, Jeaneen actively collaborates with multiple areas within the college, including communications, event coordination, community engagement, along with donor and alumni relations.

"I love the community engagement aspect of my job because it allows me to be a part of something that makes a positive impact on people's lives, and that is very rewarding," said Jeaneen.

Before joining FAU, Jeaneen graduated from the University of Florida's College of Journalism. She began her career as a newsletter editor and graphic designer for a prominent tourism company. She later ventured into toy invention and entrepreneurship, achieving success in those endeavors. Over the course of a decade, Jeaneen gained extensive experience in product development, branding, public relations, fundraising, event coordination, media communications and creative writing.

Jeaneen has a deep passion for her work and studies at FAU, and she is currently pursuing a master's degree in communication and multimedia studies.



Caring for Our Communities: Bringing Services to the Underserved in the Glades

For the last several years, FAU College of Nursing faculty along with their students, have built a strong health care presence in a rural area on the east and southern coasts of Lake Okeechobee in Palm Beach County. The area, commonly referred to as “the Glades,” is comprised of four towns — Pahokee, Canal Point, South Bay and Belle Glade — and is home to a large population of migrant and farm workers. The region suffers from a professional health care shortage and is designated as a medically underserved region.

Eight years ago, Dr. Lisa Wiese, College of Nursing associate professor, began a partnership with community stakeholders and leaders to promote the understanding, screening and treatment of dementias in the region.

“The Glades residents want to be informed about their health and how they can age in place, and it is an absolute privilege and joy to work with them,” said Dr. Wiese. “The residents truly care for one another, which is inspiring.”

Other College faculty and students have since joined the effort and are working to improve the overall quality of life in the Glades community, including Dr. Debra Hain, professor, DNP program director and graduate co-coordinator AGNP concentration. Over 16 different service organizations now participate in weekly virtual meetings to plan health events and outreaches to address a range of residents’ health concerns and needs. Today, residents have access to a variety of services, including health education; screenings for hypertension, diabetes, obesity and cognitive risk; hybrid chair yoga sessions; and Zumba classes.



A new nurse-led mobile health unit is also now helping to bring care where it’s needed most. Last year, College researchers received a four-year, \$3.9 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. FAU’s project, “Caring-based Community & Academic Relationships for Excellence (CARE): Nurse-led Mobile Health Unit,” is designed to increase health care access to rural and vulnerable populations through mobile health units staffed by an interprofessional team of practitioners, including undergraduate and graduate nursing students. The project targets underserved populations of Belle Glade and West Palm Beach.

Caring for Our Communities: Bringing Services to the Underserved in the Glades

“Rather than expecting our medically underserved patients to come to us for their health care needs, with this important HRSA grant, we will now be able to go to them,” said Safiya George, Ph.D., dean, FAU Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing. “Importantly, by bringing our mobile health unit to our region’s rural and underserved communities, our CARE nursing students will have the opportunity to experience firsthand the impact of the social determinants of health.”

Current community partners include, but are not limited to: Healthier Glades of Palm Beach County, the Diabetes Coalition of Palm Beach County, Pahokee Housing Authority, Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network, the Glades Area Ministerial Association, Lakeside Medical Center, Palm Beach County American Heart Association, Health Council of Southeast Florida, BeWell Foundations, West Palm Beach Veteran Affairs Medical Center/Fresh Truck, The Salvation Army Palm Beach County, Vita Nova, YWCA Palm Beach County, Glades Area Ministerial Association and Palm Health Care Foundation.



“This community raised me to be the person I am today,” said Annie Ifill, project director, Healthier Glades of Palm Beach County. “Doing this work is my way of giving back to my community. We are creating opportunities for residents to thrive by offering financial and in-kind support to bring about community change. It is my hope to see a thriving and healthy community where residents can live, work and play without having to travel 30-plus miles to do it.”

Caring for Our Communities: Bringing Services to the Underserved in the Glades

Other notable activities:

- Drs. Lisa Wiese and Deb Hain were in Belle Glade on August 27, 2022, to participate in the area's annual Family Fun Fest. In partnership with the Diabetes Coalition of Palm Beach County and Healthier Glades, they conducted screenings for hypertension and measured HgA1C, BMI and cholesterol levels.
- Drs. Lisa Wiese and Debra Hain participated in the Healthy Eating, Healthy Living Expo and Resource Fair for Diabetes Awareness at Lakeside Medical Center in Belle Glade, on Nov. 5, 2022. Participants received free screenings, resources, supplies and support, along with fresh fruits and vegetables that were donated by local community organizations.
- Thanks to Dr. Lisa Wiese's mentoring and encouragement, a Faith Health Educator was able to secure a grant to allow Belle Glades residents to continue to attend a hybrid chair yoga class. The program was originally funded by FAU's I-HEALTH pillar.
- Dr. Lisa Wiese visits one of the four different towns in the Glades each month to do health screenings (BP, BMI and HgA1C) in association with the Diabetes Coalition of Palm Beach County and the American Heart Association, including at churches and residential neighborhoods such as Covenant Villas (Belle Glade) or Amaryllis Gardens (Pahokee, FL).



Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center

Faculty leaders from the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, College of Social Work and Criminal Justice and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine are planning an educational summer program in 2024 to Armenia, Colombia, through FAU's Center for Global Engagement's Education Abroad program. The innovative, interprofessional education and collaborative practice (IPEP) course aims to enhance students' knowledge of practice and team-based care through a holistic IPEP lens in diverse clinical, multilingual and multicultural communities. Undergraduate and graduate students in the fields of nursing, social work and medicine are eligible to apply.

The Memory and Wellness Center (MWC) is also working with FAU's Division of Sponsored Programs in creating a Memorandum of Understanding to work on several clinical, education and research projects with administration, staff and residents of ACTS Retirement-Life Community's St. Andrews Estates and Edgewater at Boca Pointe. Activities include dermatological screenings, examination of "long-haul" COVID-19 on residents and student clinical practicum rotations in the independent living clinic and in the skilled nursing facilities.

In the coming months, the College eagerly anticipates the opening of the Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center on FAU's Davie campus. Currently, the director and staff are working on the design, installation and implementation of IT support. Also, the Center is engaging with Broward County community partners, such as Broward Health North and the Daniel D. Cantor Senior Center in Sunrise, to develop and implement clinical and community-based dementia specific programs and services, including education, training, quality improvement projects and research. Also, staff are developing plans between FAU and the Daniel D. Cantor Senior Center for clinical site student placement.

The goal of the Center, led by director Dr. Maria Ortega, associate dean of clinical practice and professor, is to meet the complex needs of persons with memory disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (AD/ADRD), and their families through caring, science-based dementia-specialized services, compassionate and innovative programs of care, research and education. Additionally, the Center conducts research on best practices in care for persons with AD/ADRD and caregiver support. It also provides space and mentoring during practicum experiences for students of nursing, medicine, social work, exercise science, neuropsychology, communication disorders, health administration and other disciplines.



Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center

In July 2005, the Memory and Wellness Center became a state-designated Memory Disorder Clinic under the State of Florida's Department of Elder Affairs-Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI). As such, the Center actively participates in the state network of 17 Memory Disorder Clinics.

Fiscal Year 2022-23 Impact

- Sustaining the Caregiver Program = 5
- Caregiver Support Groups 5 weekly, including specialized groups for Adult Children (50), Younger Onset (41), General Caregiver (94), and Transition (7), conducted virtually = 192
- Support Groups for Family Caregivers = 802
- Caregivers Served = 1,307
- Follow Up Care-Supportive Services = 2,625
- Check-in Calls; Caregivers/Patients = 1,757
- Mental Health Services
(*Psychiatric and Psychotherapy Evaluation and Treatment*) = 293
- Clinic and Adult Day Care Referrals = 913
- Clinic and Adult Day Care Scholarships = 95

2,162
EVALUATION
VISITS

3,420
ADULT
DAY CARE
ATTENDANCE

Special Events

The Caring Hearts Auxiliary hosted their 16th annual "Keep Memories Alive Walk in the Mall" and raised more than \$116,800 for day center scholarships and caregiver programs at the Memory and Wellness Center. (Nov. 6, 2022)



Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center

Community Support Services

- Sustaining the Caregiver Program: Virtual Caregiver Support Groups (Adult Children Caregiver, Young Onset Dementia Caregiver, General Caregiver and Transitions)
- Alzheimer's Specialized Adult Day Care Center
- Presentations to Harbour's Edge, a Lifespace Community
- Presentation to Daniel D. Cantor Senior Center, Kurt and Alice Walter Adult Day Care/ Alzheimer's Respite programs
- Supported the grant funding opportunity to the Daniel D. Cantor Senior Center by Broward Health North

Of Special Note

The MWC maintains continuous engagement and support with Boca Raton Regional Hospital through their Community Outreach Grant; State Memory Disorder Clinic (designation, guidance and funding) from the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Alzheimer's Disease Initiative; and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Community Living.

Community Presentations

Throughout the fiscal year, Dr. Ortega participated in numerous community presentations, including FAU's Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine; the American Sociological Association; and the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence Leadership Conference.

Community Engaged Teaching/Learning/Training

As a student training lab, the MWC served over 59 nursing, medicine, social work, neuropsychological and speech language pathologist students throughout the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Staff also collaborated with Nursing faculty, Dr. Tamara Love, for a new Compassionate Care CNA course curriculum development and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine's Post-Baccalaureate Program students' community learning and research experiences. Additionally, MWC staff gave Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Training (as per Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Alzheimer's Disease Initiative requirements) to Adult Day Care staff in West Palm Beach and other Day Care Centers including FAU's MWC.

Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center

Looking Ahead

- Plans are underway to expand services and programs into Broward County from FAU's Davie campus at our new Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center.
- Continuing development program in improving and integrating mental and behavioral health services for persons living with dementia and their families/caregivers.
- Expanding interprofessional education and collaborative practices within the U.S. and South America.
- New research, education and training opportunities with three new South Florida community organizations.
- Memory and Wellness Center collaboration with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) focusing on driving and mental health.
- Quality improvement initiative in identifying risk for suicide for those who are newly diagnosed with dementia (integrating mental health within comprehensive dementia clinical care, research and education).



FAU/NCHA Community Health Center



Over the last year, the Florida Atlantic University Northwest Community Health Alliance (FAU/NCHA) has opened its doors to local and federal officials and the community at-large to raise awareness and provide much-needed services to local residents. The Center collaborated with Florida State Representative Jervonte Edmonds (District 88) to host “Hallowscreen” on Oct. 14, 2022, at the U.B. Kinsey location. The health fair offered free screenings, COVID-19 tests and vaccinations and diabetes and blood pressure checkups to adults and children. The Center welcomed elected officials and community members on Jan. 10, 2023, for an Open House

to call attention to the primary care and behavioral health services available to underserved populations in West Palm Beach. Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick visited the Center in January and met with clinicians and nursing students.

The clinics also participated in the Palm Health Foundation Change maker event where Palm Beach County residents, nonprofits, for profits and funders gathered on April 22, 2023, for a community workshop to learn and share their work which is shaping the culture of health throughout the county.

The Center, led by Executive Director Dr. Karethy Edwards and Assistant Director Dr. Karen Wisdom-Chambers, provides a lifeline for primary and behavioral health care for West Palm Beach residents, almost one quarter of which is uninsured, and many of whom have chronic conditions. All patients receive health care services regardless of their ability to pay.

Among the services offered at the two clinics in West Palm Beach are quality primary care and behavioral health services, vision and hearing screenings and pediatric care for children. Other services include geriatric care as well as routine sick visits and health maintenance, preventive care and chronic disease management. Diagnostic testing and laboratory testing services such as cholesterol and HIV testing also are available. As an American Diabetes Association “Diabetes Certified Education Center,” services at the FAU/NCHA CHC also include diabetes patient and family education. In addition, FAU nursing students participate in educational outreach and health sessions on location at YWCA centers.



FAU/NCHA Community Health Center

Fiscal Year 2022-23 Impact

6,947
TOTAL PATIENT VISITS

PATIENT POPULATION

BLACK 42% HISPANIC 35%

WHITE NON-HISPANIC 22%

44% OF PATIENTS HAVE HOUSEHOLD INCOMES AT OR BELOW 100% FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

20% OF PATIENTS HAVE HOUSEHOLD INCOMES AT 101% - 200% FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

43% OF PATIENTS ARE UNINSURED

New Initiatives

The FAU/NCHA is part of a \$3.9 million U.S. Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA) grant for the mobile health unit.

The nurse-led mobile health unit is a team of healthcare providers. The unit provides technology assisted, culturally aligned, evidence-based health promotion, disease prevention, primary and mental health care services to create healthier populations in rural and medically underserved regions.

The project targets underserved populations of Belle Glade and West Palm Beach including families with children, veterans, homeless persons, women and children sheltering from domestic violence, and young persons who have aged out of the foster care system, which represent the populations at highest risk for health disparities and low literacy.

As part of the Mobile Health Nurse led unit, Drs. Edwards, Olufunmilayo Akinpelu, instructor Faye Postell and eight BSN student Scholars provided Head Start physicals for 50 children at the YWCA Child Development Center in West Palm Beach and 55 school physicals and health education to students ages 5 to 14 at the Salvation Army Child Development Center.



FAU/NCHA Community Health Center

Drs. Beth King and Edwards and 16 BSN student scholars conducted focus groups with community leaders in Belle Glade at the St. John Missionary Baptist Church. Students Scholars engaged the community leaders by asking the question, “when it comes to your health and the health of your family members, what matters most to you?” Community members participated enthusiastically and provided stories of what matters most to them. Scholars and faculty gained valuable insights on future care for rural under-resourced populations.



Drs. Edwards, Wisdom-Chambers, Kyndall Mammah, Armiel Suriaga and Kaelonni Dorcus, LCSW and BSN students provided immunizations at the Palm Beach County Commissioners Back to School Event.



Drs. Hain, Edwards, Suriaga and Morancy, Ms. Dorcus and Ms. Flores provided health education, mental health and physical health assessments at the West Palm Beach Dunbar Housing Authority.



Drs. King and Edwards and Instructor Postell, with the leadership at Vita Nova which provides housing to young adults who age out of the foster care system and other homeless youth, provided primary care, mental health services and health education to their clients.

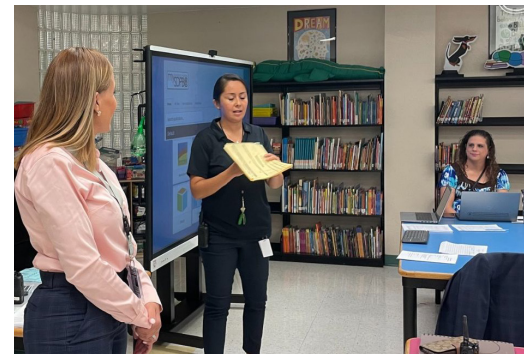
Low-income and uninsured clients with mental health disorders can receive electronic handheld devices at no cost so that they can engage in virtual services such as psychotherapy with the clinic’s LCSW. So far, the clinic has issued 10 tablets and will continue to provide more equipment to clients who need them.



FAU/NCHA Community Health Center

Award Recognition

- The FAU/NCHA Community Health Center was recognized by BRIDGES, a program of Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, for their support at a community partnership breakfast on Sept. 1, 2022.
- Members from the FAU/NCHA Community Health Center spoke to the parents of West Gate Elementary School students to learn about the variety of services the Center offers, and the many grant-funded resources that are available to community members.
- On December 30, 2022, the FAU/NCHA Community Health Center received recognition and an award from the African American Research Library and Cultural Center of Palm Beach County, Inc. (AARLCC) for its contributions to aid in improving healthcare services for citizens in the Northwest District of West Palm Beach.
- FAU/NCHA received an IT Award from the Health Resources Services Administration Center Bureau of Primary Care.
- In July 2023, the Center received a regulation site visit and received commendations for meeting all regulations for quality in administration, clinical services and financial management.



Locations

Westgate Community Health Center
1650 Osceola Drive
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

U.B. Kinsey Educational and Community Center
720 Eighth Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Global Community Service

In February 2023, FAU College of Nursing students, along with Drs. Nancy Harris and Debra Hain, returned from a study abroad trip to Guatemala where they helped care for over 500 patients. Nursing Heart Inc. hosted a group of 12 FAU Nurse Practitioner students who performed primary care and pediatrics sessions, as well as cervical cancer screening and treatments.

The group stayed in Antigua, and over the course of four days, traveled to villages in Santa María de Jesús and San Miguel Dueñas to serve indigenous Maya people. Under the guidance and supervision of licensed Guatemalan physicians and FAU faculty, students treated patients of all ages.

“We provide primary care clinics where we assess, diagnose and treat patients,” said Nancy Harris, DNP, APRN-BC, Assistant Professor, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing. “These are remote conditions where we do not have EDG, X-ray, lab, CT or MRI capabilities, and our treatments are based on empirical data gathered from good histories and physical exams. We also provide cervical cancer screening and treatment for pre-cancerous lesions.”



While FAU's nurse educators serve a valuable role in patient education regarding proper tooth brushing, healthy diets and other areas to improve patient health outcomes, students experience tremendous growth in not only in their clinical abilities, but also in cultural awareness.

“The students are forever changed with a gift of spirit which they will carry with them through their careers,” shared Dr. Harris. “Every year, I am amazed by the compassion and willingness to serve I see in our students. They will all have a special place in my heart and in the hearts of the Guatemalan people.”

Students in the FNP and GNP track are eligible to participate in the program, as are students in the Nurse Educator track (NGR 6607 and 6944). The next study abroad trips to Guatemala are scheduled to take place November 4 to 11, 2023, and February 17 to 24, 2024.

FAU College of Nursing Academic Service Learning

FAU defines Academic Service-Learning (ASL) as a teaching pedagogy that integrates community service with instruction and reflection. It is designed to enrich the learning experience through hands-on activity and to teach civic responsibility. ASL is more than just a volunteer activity. Students are required to apply what they learn in the classroom and reflect on their experiences by thinking, discussing and writing about them. It also teaches students how to apply academic knowledge to real-life civic issues, promotes teamwork and collaborative problem-solving, develops life skills and makes learning more personally meaningful.

COLLEGE OF NURSING LOGGED ACADEMIC SERVICE-LEARNING HOURS 2022-23

SUMMER 2022
5,777
HOURS

FALL 2022
3,345
HOURS

SPRING 2023
14,194
HOURS

NUMBER OF ENGAGED FACULTY TEACHING ASL COURSES = 11

Student Outreach and Community Involvement

FAU Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing student organizations are highly engaged in educating and treating local residents and supporting community organizations.

Student Nurses' Association

The Student Nurses' Association (SNA) is open to all nursing students in the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing at Florida Atlantic University. The purpose of SNA is to foster the development of student nurses into professional nurses.

FAU's SNA is designated as a Stellar Chapter of the National Student Nurses Association due to its students' commitment to the National Student Nurses' Association's core values: Advocacy, Professionalism, Quality Education, Diversity, Leadership and Autonomy, and Care. It has also been designated as a Diamond Chapter of the Florida Nursing Student Association since 2016.

The organization's activities include professional development, career day, leadership training and mentoring, Florida Nurses Association Advocacy Days, charity events, community service, social events, annual convention of Florida Nursing Student Association, annual convention of National Student Nurses Association and study abroad programs to Guatemala and Ecuador.

SNA Events

- SNA Chipotle fundraiser in early April.
- SNA co-presented Healing for Healers Night on March 22, which was open to all nurses and nursing students in the community.
- SNA held a fundraiser at Playa Bowls in West Boca on March 10.
- Boating and Beach Bash for people with disabilities on March 4 at the Spanish River Park in Boca Raton.
- Students joined other College of Nursing attendees for the Make-A-Wish 5K in Broward County on Feb. 4.
- The group held a Chipotle fundraising event on Nov. 14.
- Students attended the FSNA annual convention Oct. 27 to 29 in Daytona Beach.
- SNA hosted a Blaze Pizza fundraising event on Oct. 24.



Sigma IOTA XI Chapter At-Large

Florida Atlantic's Sigma IOTA XI Chapter At-Large is aligned with the organization's national standards of commitment to professional development, educational offerings and improving world-wide health. Activity highlights from the Chapter include a community-wide event, Healing for Healers Night, hosted in conjunction with the College of Nursing and the Florida Nurses' Association, and featured a presentation by FAU's Dr. Shirley Gordon along with meditative relaxation services, reiki energy healing, aromatherapy and labyrinth walks. The Chapter also joined other College groups to support the Walk-for-Wishes in Broward County to raise funds and grant wishes for children with critical illnesses in our local community.

Nationwide, Sigma is recognized for its support of scholarship, excellence in nursing practice and funding opportunities in nursing research. Membership is by invitation to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, and to nurse leaders who exhibit exceptional achievements in nursing.



Events

- Walk-for-Wishes Broward County 5K (Feb. 4, 2023).
- Members participated in an international webinar, titled “East and West Perspectives on Nursing Community Engagement” (November 2022). Panelists included Dr. Rhonda Goodman, founder and president of Nurse Community Partnership, and Dr. Rosana Grace Belo-Delariarte, Immediate Past Dean, West Visayas State University.
- Technical Evaluator for Nursing Program, Philippine Commission on Higher Education. The chapter initiated this international webinar to promote members’ community engagement and address health disparity.
- The Chapter sponsored a webinar on Oct. 27, 2022, titled “Heart Failure Update 2022” with the College’s Dr. Mary Ann Leavitt.
- Dr. Armiel Suriaga, Sigma IOTA XI At-Large chapter president, presented at the Greenacres Community Center in March 2023, on Substance Abuse aligned with SAMHSA’s Communities Talk initiative.



FAU DNP student Olivia Stala spearheaded a relief effort to collect money and donations for fellow Floridians affected by Hurricane Ian on the Gulf Coast. Stala collected more than \$2,400 to purchase relief supplies.

Together with friends and family, she delivered supplies and provided wellness checks to some of the hardest hit residents of Fort Myers.

Nurses Christian Fellowship

Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) is both a Christian professional organization and a ministry of and for nurses and nursing students. The purpose of the NCF, as a ministry of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA, is to establish and advance in nursing, within education and practice. The organization is open to nursing students, nurses and educators alike.

Events

- NCF participated in Operation Christmas Child, a program that mails gift boxes to over 170 countries around the world.
- NCF participated in the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society Light the Night Walk on Nov. 5, 2022, to help fund treatments for patients who are suffering from all forms of blood cancers.



General Student Involvement

- During summer 2022, a Cultural Immersion Clinical pilot program paired two MSN Nurse Practitioner students with patients at the HANDS Clinic of St. Lucie County to assess their conditions, provide care management and implement strategies to reduce disparities and increase health equity. Dr. Nancy Harris, who oversaw the program with Assistant Dean Suzanne Ffolkes, said students interacted with the patients in-person and via telehealth in this one-on-one clinical experience.
- Nurse practitioner students from FAU's Davie, Boca and HBOI campuses provided school physicals to the children of St. Lucie County, on July 23 and 31, 2022.
- On July 29, 2022, College of Nursing students and faculty volunteered for the Back to School PBC! event at the Palm Beach Convention Center. They administered COVID-19 vaccinations and distributed COVID-19 test kits to attendees.
- Family nurse practitioner students from FAU's Davie, Boca Raton and HBOI campuses joined Drs. Nancy Harris and Elizabeth Tsarnas to perform pediatric cardiac screenings on Nov. 5, 2022, at the Department of Health in Port St. Lucie. Students provided physical assessments and worked directly with pediatric cardiologists and electrophysiologists to review ECGs, and when needed, echocardiograms to over 300 at-risk children.

- In February 2023, College of Nursing students from FAU's Davie campus attended a three-day event for the Mission of Mercy and Florida Dental Association. Students primarily volunteered in the medical triage area where they treated approximately 1,500 patients for free dental care. Instructors in attendance included Melissa Borum, Dr. Syretta Morrison, Dr. Joan Diamond and Dr. Elizabeth Adenmosum.
- The College of Nursing's team, including students from SNA and Sigma, surpassed its fundraising goal for the 5K Walk for Wishes in Broward County. All funds raised benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida.
- Together with FAU RN-BSN students, Dr. Lisa Wiese attended the Diabetes Coalition of Palm Beach County's Diabetes Awareness Day in February. The group provided over 70 free health-related screenings during the event.

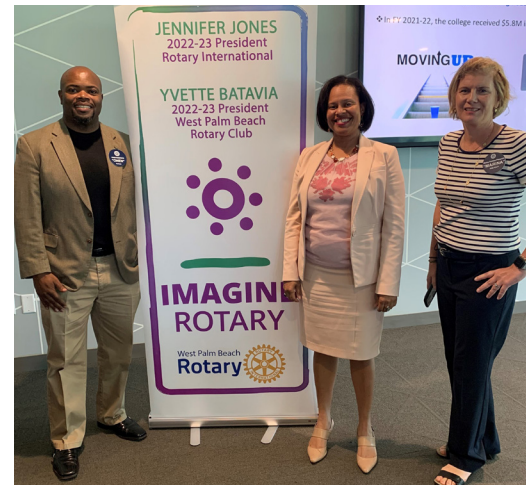
Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing Advisory Board Outreach and Community Involvement

- The board generously raised funds for College of Nursing students through two signature fundraising events. This year's 10th annual White Coat ceremony raised \$32,000 with 180 students receiving a \$200 scholarship, and the Lamplighter program collected \$54,600 with 106 students receiving a \$500 scholarship. This additional support helps aspiring nurses afford the extra costs required to study nursing.
- Terry Fedele was among the honorees at Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse's (AVDA) 16th annual Heart of a Woman luncheon on April 11, 2023, for her ongoing commitment and service to the community.
- Terry Fedele, Chair of the College of Nursing's Advisory Board, was among the Rotary Club of Boca Raton's 2023 OPAL award honorees. The awards recognize outstanding people and leaders (OPAL) in Boca Raton who demonstrate an on-going commitment to serve their neighbors. Christine E. Lynn served as an OPAL Honorary Chair for the Jan. 14 event.



Faculty Outreach and Community Involvement

- Dean George presented at West Palm Beach Rotary Club (in-person, April 18, 2023) and the Hallandale-Aventura Rotary Club (virtual) where she discussed how the College is addressing the nursing shortage and preparing students for the workforce and her research utilizing machine learning algorithms to predict short and long-term outcomes for individuals who were hospitalized with COVID-19 (April 5, 2023).
- The College participated in the Cleveland Clinic Weston Education Fair on July 12, 2022, in Weston, FL.
- The College of Nursing was among the sponsors of the Cleveland Clinic Health Fair on July 31, 2022 at the Treasure Coast Church of God 7th Day, in Port St. Lucie. Dr. Nancy Harris participated at the community health event which offered pediatric and adult health screenings, sports physicals and HIV/STD screenings.
- Dr. Tarsha Jones created a team for the 2022 Susan G. Komen Miami/Fort Lauderdale "More Than Pink Walk," called Empowered Pink (Oct. 8, 2022).
- Dr. Nancy Harris and Nurse Practitioner student Tricia Goulet, assistant director of nursing at the St. Lucie Department of Health, volunteered at the Havert L. Fenn special needs shelter. (Sept. 2022)
- The College participated in the annual holiday toy drive for Boca Helping Hands and collected numerous gifts for children of all ages throughout Palm Beach County.
- Dr. Karen Wisdom-Chambers was featured in a YWCA newsletter for being an invaluable supporter of the YWCA of Palm Beach County. Over the 2022 holiday season, she collected thousands of dollars in donations to purchase toys for YWCA's Child Development Center and the women and children at their Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter. She was also praised for her work at FAU as a tireless health care provider to underserved members in the community.



- Professor Emeritus Dr. Jill Winland-Brown volunteers one day a week to help the underserved in St. Lucie County at the Volunteers in Medicine Hands Clinic.

- Dr. Shirley Gordon participated in Labyrinth Townhall Education Programs on August 16, Oct. 10 and Oct. 11, 2022, which were open to the university community. She also performed health screenings as a College faculty member and as a Federal Medical Reserve Corp. (FMRC) member, at the following locations: J.D. Parker Elementary School, Stuart (Oct. 25, 2022); Hobe Sound Elementary School, Hobe Sound (Nov. 15, 2022); and Felix A Williams Elementary School, Stuart (Dec. 13, 2022).



- Dr. Nancy Harris was honored at the Department of Health’s annual Volunteer and Partner Appreciation Luncheon in Port St. Lucie, in recognition for going “Above and Beyond” in her service with the St. Lucie County Department of Health during Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.

- The FAU College of Nursing Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Specialty Post-Graduate Certificate Program held free skin cancer screenings on May 3, in the Boca Raton campus building, as part of Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month. Program Director Dr. Debra Shelby, founder and president of the National Academy of Dermatology Nurse Practitioners (NADNP) and FAU nursing students conducted the screenings.



- On May 3, together with FAU Medicine/Marcus Institute of Integrative Health, the College hosted a free, public event, “Labyrinth Under the Stars.” Participants enjoyed an informative and experiential labyrinth experience and learned about the integral role of mindfulness in health and healing.



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