



SAINT FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER
COLLEGE OF NURSING

**22
23**

ANNUAL REPORT



SAINT FRANCIS
MEDICAL CENTER
COLLEGE OF NURSING



MISSION

In the Spirit of Christ and the example of Francis of Assisi, the Mission of Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing, a private, single purpose Catholic college, is to provide excellent nursing education that fosters the learner's holistic development in an environment that encourages open inquiry and lifelong learning while serving all persons with the greatest care and love.

VISION

Through God's providence, leading our community in the art and science of nursing through excellence in education, practice, and service.

VALUES

LIFELONG LEARNING – An interactive, learner-centered process in which critical thinking and inquiry skills are developed and lead to a lifelong commitment to discovering and disseminating new knowledge.

COMPASSION – A caring response to the holistic needs of the people we serve.

LEADERSHIP – Developing skills and talents through innovation, agility and collaboration to meet the health care and education needs of the community.

JUSTICE – Respecting the personal worth and dignity of each person as an individual.

TRUST – Open and honest communications, actions and behaviors that foster trusting relationships among Mission Partners, students and those served.

INTEGRITY – Upholding the Catholic ethical principles; Catholic social, emotional and intellectual teachings; and professional codes of conduct and ethical standards in education and practice.

ACCOUNTABILITY – The obligation to provide quality and evidence-based education and care while being responsible for outcomes and good stewards of resources.

SUPPORTIVE WORK AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT – Creating an atmosphere that provides support, encouragement and nurturing for the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health of the college community.

“...with the greatest care and love.”



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The 2022-2023 academic year has been an exciting one for the College Board and the College of Nursing. We said hello to four new Board members, Michael Murtagh, Bailey Norton (student rep), Dr. William Tammone and Mike Wells, while saying goodbye to Bob Anderson, Kristen Manning and Jesse Placher, thanking them for their years of service and contributions to the College Board.

Highlights from the Board's activity this year include:

- Approving a new 12-month accelerated BSN program for individual's holding a bachelor's degree (BA or BS)
- Having a successful Higher Learning Commission (HLC) mid-cycle site visit and celebrating the great work of our faculty, staff and administration
- Streamlining the Institutional Effectiveness/Assessment and Student Support areas of the college, sharing resources with our sister college, Saint Anthony College of Nursing
- Approving revised College Mission, Vision and Values statements
- Hiring the next President, Dr. Charlene Aaron, who begins her tenure on July 5, 2023

The success of the College is directly linked to the hard work of the faculty, staff and administration. We have had many successes this year, and I'd like to personally thank every Mission Partner for their commitment and dedication to advancing the work of the College.

Specifically, I'd like to thank our Interim President, Dr. Shannon Lizer, for serving in that role for the past two years. She has been a blessing to the Colleges of Nursing, and we wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

Opportunities currently under development or being explored include:

- Providing BSN opportunities to Monmouth College students
- CRNA program exploration
- Development of the next Strategic Plan

Again, thank you all for an excellent year. The College Board looks forward to working with and supporting the faculty, staff and the leadership team in advancing the College mission in the coming year!

Margaret A. Swanson, PhD
Board Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I am very happy to share with you information about another wonderful year at Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing (SFMC CON)! It is hard to believe that the 2022-2023 academic year is now over. During this past academic year, we have worked hard to continue the fine tradition of nursing education at SFMC CON. Additionally, with my retirement, we are all excited about the arrival of our new President, Dr. Charlene Aaron. I will be passing the baton to Dr. Aaron just prior to the new 2023-2024 academic year.

Enrollment, student readiness and the continued support of student learning have all been challenges in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we have continued to meet these challenges head-on and have learned a great deal during this period of time. A fresh marketing campaign has spurred enrollment and we are excited about the support of the OSF organization. As many of you know, nurses in record numbers have left the profession, both due to retirements in an aging workforce and subsequent to the pandemic. Consequently, health care needs well-educated and prepared nurses. As a result of this workforce need, the OSF organization now fully funds nursing education at SFMC CON for employees. This creates a tremendous opportunity for SFMC CON to support the OSF HealthCare Ministry.

In February 2023, SFMC CON hosted an assessment team from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to assess compliance of all College programs. The HLC has set standards in the areas of mission, institutional integrity, resources, planning and effective teaching and learning. SFMC CON faculty, staff and leadership worked hard to prepare a comprehensive report documenting evidence about how we met HLC standards. The outcomes of this visit were very positive. Additionally, the HLC Team noted that the SFMC CON and OSF Missions were clearly evident in all of their interactions. The positive visit is the result of the hard work by all of us at SFMC CON and the great outcomes that we have seen in our academic programs.

Another major accomplishment this past year was the development of an accelerated BSN degree. This accelerated program will provide an opportunity for an individual holding a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) degree to complete the BSN in one academic year. The goal of this program is not only to provide an opportunity for an individual to seek an alternative career in a short, intense period of time, but also to support current health care workforce needs. This accelerated BSN program launched on September 11 for the fall semester. Faculty and leadership at both SFMC CON and Saint Anthony College of Nursing in Rockford have collaborated to develop this program.

Finally, the undergraduate NCLEX pass rates, at 84% for the calendar year 2022 and 87% in the first quarter of 2023, are above the state and national average, and the graduate program advanced practice certification pass rates are consistently very positive. This is an awesome accomplishment for all faculty and staff!

In all, it has been a fabulous year at Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing. We are passionate about nursing education and look forward to our future!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Kizer".

Shannon K. Lizer, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP
President, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

The Graduate Program has had a year of change. Dr Kimberly Mitchel started what she affectionately calls her “permanent vacation” and retired at the end of the academic year 2022. As the new Graduate Dean, I began my new role July 2022. My health care career includes over 25 years of experience as a respiratory therapist, CVICU RN, PACU RN, family nurse practitioner and educator. I continue to practice as a family nurse practitioner in a rural clinic in our community one day a week. I am married and have two active boys, one working full time as a welder and one starting his junior year in high school. We enjoy going to our son’s football games, wrestling tournaments and traveling.

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) completed a site visit in February 2023. The accreditation team was impressed by the commitment to the mission in each interaction with students, staff and faculty. All programs that we offer are fully accredited for another 10 years.

Our enrollment consists of 135 graduate students; 30 of whom are earning doctoral degrees, 96 MSN and nine post graduate certificate students. Our enrollment continues to increase in all programs. Austin Blair, the College’s new manager of Admissions, Registration, Marketing and Social Media, along with new recruiters, Tyler Sherwood and Sam Zangara, have done a wonderful job visiting surrounding colleges and high schools over the past year. Their presence in these areas have generated increased interest and applications to our graduate program.

We continue in our journey to transform the curriculum to meet the new American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials: Core Competencies for Nursing Education. This document has essential considerations for entry-level professional education (BSN) and for advanced-level nursing education (Graduate level). Achieving the Essentials will be based on competencies. The AACN expects the change to take three or more years.

I would like to express my gratitude with the warm welcome from faculty, staff, students, administration and alumni. I am looking forward to helping the College continue to meet the needs of our health system and our community in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Carole Eatock, DNP, APRN-FPA, NP-C



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing baccalaureate program has had another eventful year. I continue to see much academic promise in our baccalaureate students despite many challenges.

The College provides many learning opportunities such as access to outstanding clinical sites, student volunteer opportunities, cultural immersion experiences and student governance opportunities which allow students to grow and succeed. In addition, the College employs exceptional faculty and outstanding staff members who are devoted to promoting the students' academic and personal growth.

The College NCLEX-RN pass rate continues to exceed the accreditation requirement. We continue to implement strategies to prepare students for the changes that were implemented in the NCLEX-RN licensure exam post-graduation. Faculty have worked tirelessly to prepare students for this change and we continue to offer an NCLEX-RN review course which is embedded into the last semester of the baccalaureate curriculum. These efforts ensure that all students are well prepared to enter the profession of nursing and are well prepared to take the licensure exam.

I would be remiss not to spend some time discussing year three of the COVID-19 pandemic, enrollment opportunities and how the pandemic has impacted our College and students. Our faculty have risen to the challenge and have implemented remediation strategies to support our students in their academic endeavors. We also recognize the long-term nature of these learning challenges and are designing assessment strategies embedded support and remediation for all students as they progress through our curricula.

Of further concern is the nationwide decrease in student enrollment in higher education. As faculty, staff and leadership have flexed to accommodate for these enrollment changes, we are fortunate for the close relationship we have with OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center and OSF HealthCare.

Their support of our undergraduate students in the clinical setting has been unparalleled. Our students benefit from access to a diverse patient population and expert clinical faculty. The clinical opportunities continue to be a deciding factor in our students choosing Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing over other area programs.

We have been blessed this year with the addition of a new faculty member. Jaclyn Lamer DNP, RN, joined our highly qualified faculty in fostering learning and growth in our BSN students in the classroom and clinical arenas.

In summary, this has been a challenging year filled with growth and opportunities. I am blessed to serve Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing, the faculty and staff and students.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Brown'.

Suzanne C. Brown PhD, DNP, RN
Dean, Undergraduate Program



2021-2024

STRATEGIC PLAN

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Provide quality education in an environment that promotes student success.

- Reimagine the student experience so that it becomes student centered and individualized.
- Improve student retention and progression.

FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Advance faculty excellence in teaching and scholarship.

- Strategic faculty development in teaching and teaching technology use.
- Strategic faculty development in research and scholarship.

OPTIMIZE STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Enhance the process of recruitment, enrollment, retention and progression of students.

- Increase the number of students seeking information from and applying to the College.
- Increase undergraduate and graduate enrollment to the targeted number each enrollment period.

PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

Refine curricula and clinical experiences to ensure students have professional success.

- Align curriculum review process to conform with the AACN revised Essentials competencies.
- Align the curricula to prepare students for success on the revised licensure and certification examinations and employment.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Sustain and expand status as a Catholic College.

- Sustain the College mission, Catholic identity and faith-based culture.
- Emphasize the integration of Social Justice Principles within the lived experience at the college.

TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP



Shannon K. Lizer, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP, retires

Shannon K. Lizer, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP, retired this summer after serving 18 months as interim president for the colleges of nursing. Dr. Lizer had planned to retire in May 2022 from her position as dean of graduate affairs for Saint Anthony College Nursing when she was called to serve as interim president after the retirement of former president Sandie Soldwisch, PhD, ANP-BC, RN.

Looking back at highlights of her time as interim president, Dr. Lizer said, “Bringing the colleges together to maximize the talent and resources between the two was exciting. Participating in the search for the new president was also a great experience. It was a busy time, but it was very rewarding.”

Dr. Lizer began her career in academia at University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) College of Medicine in 1996. In 2002, she also began teaching at UIC College of Nursing. She joined Saint Anthony College of Nursing in 2010 as dean of graduate affairs and research.

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- Shannon K. Lizer, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP

She earned her BSN from Northern Illinois University, MSN from UIC, and a post-MSN in family nurse practitioner and doctorate from Rush University. She practiced as an FNP, providing health care to veterans and the underserved until December 2021. She was inducted as a Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners in 2016.

“I still hear from students I’ve had not just at OSF but also from UIC,” Dr. Lizer said. “It makes me feel really good to know I’ve helped along the way, and I would hope that all of our graduates would pay that forward.”

Dr. Lizer is proud that both her daughters, Jessica and Chelsey, are advanced practice nurses. Chelsey earned her doctorate from Saint Anthony College of Nursing in 2022.

In retirement, Dr. Lizer plans to spend time with her family and horses and to volunteer with the CASA program (Court Appointed Special Advocates).



Charlene Aaron, PhD, RN, named new president

Charlene Aaron, PhD, RN, is the new president leading Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing and Saint Anthony College of Nursing.

“I am excited to lead the two colleges because it’s an opportunity and challenge to grow more nurses in the central and western regions of the state,” Dr. Aaron said. “I have some innovative ideas on how to encourage prospective students to seek a nursing degree and reach goals they never thought were possible.”

Dr. Aaron most recently served as chancellor and professor at HSHS St. John’s College of Nursing in Springfield and previously worked as an assistant professor at the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. She has served in both clinical and educational capacities throughout her career.

She believes the Mission sets the colleges apart from other nursing schools. “We live the Mission by the way we welcome our students and interact with our fellow Mission Partners. That sets an example for our students that facilitates learning to care for others with the greatest care and love,” she said.

Among challenges facing nursing education, Dr. Aaron said, “The cost of a nursing education is a barrier for some. Innovative strategies are needed to find funding for people who are interested in the very rewarding career of nursing.”

She added, “There will soon be a silver tsunami as many experienced registered nurses will be retiring. This impacts quality of care. I see simulation experiences for students and practicing nurses improving quality/safety measures, and organizational assistance with continuing education as key to meeting these challenges.”

As chair of the Illinois Association of Colleges of Nursing, Dr. Aaron said, “It’s our responsibility to ensure we are providing nursing education in a high quality, holistic, cultural, and equitable manner to all students aspiring to be registered nurses, contributing to the health of their communities.”

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- Charlene Aaron, PhD, RN

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Bryce Clonch, BSN student



Witnessing the compassion nurses show for others is what influenced Bryce Clonch to go into the profession, and he has earned a reputation for being that kind of nurse himself as he works toward earning his BSN from Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing.

“The first thing that sparked my interest in being a nurse was seeing their selflessness in putting others before themselves day in and day out, and even out in the community,” said Bryce, who plans to work in pediatric hematology/oncology after he graduates in December 2023.

“Also, seeing the compassion and care the nurses showed when my two children were born made me realize that I wanted to go into pediatrics.”

Bryce, who came to nursing a little later in life than some of his peers, also was influenced by his wife, Sarah, an OSF HealthCare Life Flight nurse and an alumna of the college.

“I had always wanted to do nursing, but I had kind of taken a sidestep with working in sales for several years to save up money to go to school,” he said. “But my wife has always supported me to continue my dream to come back and do nursing.”

Born in Kentucky but raised primarily in Canada and Pennsylvania, Bryce chose to attend the college in part because of its Mission. “I really agree with the Christian values that this facility shares and their Mission statement of serving persons with the greatest care and love. My father is a pastor, so I share in that philosophy,” he said.

Asked about his experiences as a student, Bryce praised the faculty. “They will go above and beyond for you, as long as they see you trying to go above and beyond for yourself. They will push you a little bit more than you even think you’re capable of sometimes, just because they want you to succeed,” he said.

Some of the families Bryce has worked with during clinical training have recognized him for his compassion and ability to communicate. “Being a father myself, I can really sympathize

with the families,” he said. “Building a rapport and connection with them just helps them want to engage and be much more receptive to the care that I’m trying to give them and their child.”

Working with Type 1 diabetics last summer at Camp GranADA in Monticello, Illinois, as part of a college class also confirmed Bryce’s interest in working with children.

“It was a great experience working with the kids, as well as working with the other nurses and the physicians who were there,” he said. “It’s a community of love and respect for one another, and it was great to be a part of that.”

Bryce hopes to eventually continue his education at the college to become a nurse practitioner and possibly even a professor.

“Just as my professors have helped me, I would love to help the younger generation as they embark on their nursing journey,” he said.

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Melissa Joos, MSN, APRN, ACNS-BC, FNP-BC



Melissa Joos, MSN, APRN, ACNS-BC, FNP-BC, has been with OSF HealthCare for more than 25 years, starting as a co-op student in high school, staying through nursing school and currently working as an APRN and teaching at Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing.

After earning her BSN from the college in 2002, Melissa worked on the Progressive Cardiac Care Unit at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center for six years before earning her MSN. She then worked nine years as a critical care APRN.

"I loved every minute of it," Melissa said. "But I really enjoyed precepting and I just always liked learning, so I thought I should go back for my master's so I could become a teacher."

She joined the college faculty as a full-time assistant professor in 2017 but switched to part-time this year so she could go back to work as an APRN after earning a post-master's FNP certificate. "I love teaching, but I was kind of itching for the chance to go back to practicing as an APRN," she said. "Working part-time at the bedside and part-time at the college helps keep you sharp."

Currently, Melissa works as an APRN at OSF Health Care Illinois Neurological Institute and also teaches ICU and gerontology courses. She also is the acute care nurse practitioner clinical coordinator at the college. "I just started in neurosurgery, but I think I'm really going to enjoy it," she said. "I'm excited to be learning new things."

Melissa's favorite thing about teaching is when students have that "aha moment."

"I love when I can come up with a way to help them grasp something they aren't getting. I like to make it fun and memorable," she said. "I also like to record my lectures, so they can go back and listen to them if there's something they didn't understand."

Outside of work, Melissa loves to travel with her husband, spend time with their four children and do genealogy research, having traced her family back to the Revolutionary War. She also is proud that her oldest daughter, Jerelyn Skaggs, graduated from the college in May and is working on the same cardiac floor where Melissa began her nursing career.

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"I'm the first nurse in my family, but there have been a few more since I graduated," said the East Peoria native. "My mother graduated college later in life and became a teacher, which partially inspired me to teach nursing."

Melissa felt the spark to become a

nurse when she was hired as the first high school co-op student at OSF HealthCare, working half-days filing medical records in a family medicine office.

"I continued to work at the medical group when I went to Illinois Central College, and as I got more experienced they let me work at the front desk and room patients. I just really enjoyed taking care of people," she said.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Leigh Ann Bonney, PhD, RN, CNE



Leigh Ann Bonney, PhD, RN, CNE, has fond childhood memories of going to work with her mom, who was a nurse at a nursing home, but she didn't consider nursing as a career until after her son was born.

"I was actually a graphic designer before I became a nurse," said the Canton native. "But after I had my son, I wanted to find work that was more meaningful. I loved teaching and I loved nursing, so I knew I could do both if I went to nursing school."

She was drawn to Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing by its Mission-driven

culture and earned her BSN in 2003 and MSN in 2007.

"The faculty were amazing role models," Leigh Ann said. "For my MSN, I knew I would go back to the college to be with those same educators who shaped me into the nurse and the educator that I am today."

Leigh Ann's first job as a registered nurse was in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center. "I loved it," she said. "It was an excellent place to work and learn so much about nursing."

One year to the date of her BSN graduation, she began working on her MSN and became the college's first full-time graduate assistant. "I helped the lab coordinator at that time set up all the labs that we have today," she said.

She joined the college faculty a month after receiving her MSN that December, teaching in the undergraduate program for 10 years before transitioning into the graduate program.

"Now I'm the course lead for the nurse educator track, and it's very exciting," Leigh Ann said. "I'm passionate about teaching. It's so rewarding watching my students learn. They're so smart and they work so hard, especially in the graduate program. Most of them are working full time and also coming to school, so it's a heavy load."

Noting that some questioned what she'd do after earning her doctorate in nursing in 2014, Leigh Ann said she always intended to keep teaching. "These students deserve a PhD-prepared faculty who use best evidence-based teaching strategies to help them learn and grow and be the best nurses they can be," she said.

"Nursing school is so challenging. I think it's the hardest BSN you can get, and then they are able to care for their patients and give them the best care. I just enjoy seeing that cycle."

Leigh Ann said she is proud to be an alumna of the college. "I sing the college's praises all the way. I think it goes beyond just teaching. We care for our students. Just like the Sisters pray for us, we pray for our students and their successes."

In her spare time, Leigh Ann loves spending time with her family, including her son and two young grandchildren. She also enjoys reading and visiting the ocean.

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-Leigh Ann Bonney, PhD,
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NEW PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

College partners with Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center



Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing students are benefiting from even more advanced hands-on simulation opportunities through a new partnership between the college and Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center.

“It gives our students a leg up because not many other area nursing students are utilizing this,” said Austin Blair, manager of admissions, registration, marketing and social media for the college.

The partnership began last year when Nicole Delinski, DNP, RN, who was then director of educational operations for Jump, reached out to Blair and Undergraduate Program Dean Dr. Sue Brown about bringing nursing students into the center.

“We worked out a process where faculty were able to go in and set up a method for being able to do a variety of different simulations at Jump,” Blair said.

Another key factor is that students work with standardized patients instead of a simulation mannequin. While the college has state-of-the-art simulation and skills laboratories, working with a live patient helps students work on communication, among other skills, Blair said.

Assistant Professor Melissa Joos, MSN, APRN, ACNS-BC, FNP-BC, added, “Jump has tons of amazing equipment and scenarios that we can use to simulate things we want students to know before we ever take them out on the hospital floor.”

Eric Erbentraut, RN, BSN, who graduated from the college in the spring and now works in the ED at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center, said being able to train at Jump was a vital part of his education.

“I particularly found cardiac/respiratory arrest simulations helped me the most,” he said. “I was able to get familiar with the ‘crash cart’ and the Life Pack that we use on a daily basis in the ED.”

Another advantage of the partnership is that students can use Jump even after they graduate, a perk Eric plans to utilize. “There are a lot of skills we learn in school, and if we don’t use them on a regular basis, it’s easy to forget some of the nuances that are important in providing best practice to our patients,” he said.

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Blair added, “OSF wants to be the employer of choice and that starts with their education. As long as they’re a student here, they’re getting a quality education. And when they graduate, they’re going to go into a job where they’re going to be taken care of and they can continue to educate themselves and continue to utilize the great resources we have at OSF.”

Through the partnership, the college has also been able to host area high schools at Jump with different simulations to give them an understanding of what health care is and a look at the advanced

equipment nurses use, Blair said.

Since opening in 2013, Jump has grown into a world-class medical simulation and education center. Spread across 168,000 square feet on six floors, Jump is the largest specially built medical simulation and innovation center in the country.

CULTURAL IMMERSION

Gaining awareness of global health needs



The College offers an undergraduate Cultural Immersion course each summer, where students study global health issues and travel to a global location to provide direct patient care.

The immersion experience allows students to gain cultural awareness of global health needs and allows the opportunity for lived experiences in another culture.

In the summer of 2023, the Cultural Immersion course took place in Columbia, Tennessee. Columbia is a suburban city located approximately 45 minutes south of Nashville. Kate Bailey, RN, MSN, accompanied eight nursing students.

Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing partnered with Remote Area Medical to provide medical, dental and vision care to uninsured and underinsured persons. Remote Area Medical was first organized to provide services to the Appalachia region

of the United States where the rate of high-risk behaviors is higher and the availability of physician care is lower than the rest of the nation. The organization has since expanded its operations and now travels nationwide to provide services that are all volunteer led.

The clinic in Columbia provided a full dental clinic with 25 patient beds available and a full range of services from dental cleaning to dental surgeries. The medical clinic offered general provider care as well as specialized pediatrics and gynecologic care, and the vision clinic offered eye exams and new same day glasses.

The students spent a majority of their time working in the clinic triage area where they took full health histories, performed vital sign assessments and reviewed medications with patients prior to their treatments. In addition to triage, students had the opportunity to work in the medical clinic with the lead nurse performing a variety of functions and in the dental clinic assisting with instruments, patient instruction and general support.

Clinic days started at 5 a.m. and went until late afternoon each day. Students were directly involved in both the setup and tear down of the full clinic. Each day students were asked to reflect on their experiences and expand on what they gained from the clinic itself.

All of the students had a very positive response to the clinic and the work they accomplished during their time in Tennessee. Students felt a strong sense of accomplishment and that they were able to make a difference for people. With the help of the students the clinic was able to see 231 patients and provide \$126,000 worth of services to those in need.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS



Camp HOPE offers new outlook on life

Nursing students have the opportunity to attend Camp HOPE, a five-day overnight camp for local children with cancer or blood disorders at Timber Pointe Outdoor Center in Hudson, Illinois. Camp HOPE creates an environment rich in fun, education, positive coping and life skills to cultivate relationships with others enduring the chronic illness journey.

The students are accompanied by faculty members Jordan Herring, MSN, RN, and Alissa Watkins, PhD, RN, and work alongside various other oncology/hematology medical staff. Campers range in age from 5 to 16 and have a current or previous diagnosis of cancer or blood disorder. Their siblings are also invited to attend.

Throughout the week, the nursing students work alongside a camp counselor and are assigned to a cabin and a group of children. They collaborate with physicians, medical students, advanced practice nurses, nurses, students and peers to provide a safe experience for the campers.

The students collaborate with the cabin team and are responsible for the well-being and daily care of the campers, 24 hours a day. Under supervision, students are responsible for ensuring campers receive their scheduled medications and medical therapies. They accompany campers to “The Zoo,” a medical area where the students assist with medication administration, daily care and assessments of campers.

While at Camp HOPE, students provide an intentional experience for each camper. Students accompany the campers to the various activities – swimming, fishing, zip-lining, archery, canoeing, rock wall climbing, crafts and horseback riding – and ensure their safety. They provide education on cancer and blood disorders while providing a fun experience. Students are exposed to many great learning experiences and develop positive relationships with the campers and cabin teams. Camp HOPE is a life-changing experience providing a new outlook on life.



Camp GranADA provides education, fun

During summer 2023, nursing students had the opportunity to attend the week-long Camp GranADA, a camp for children with Type 1 diabetes. The students are accompanied by faculty member Megan Frye, PhD, RN.

The camp is held at the University of Illinois 4-H camp in Monticello, Illinois. Campers range in age from 8 to 16. Throughout the week, the nursing students collaborate with other health care professionals, such as doctors, medical students, nurses, dietitians, dietetic interns and peers. They work closely with their cabin team, often comprised of past campers, to provide a safe and fun week for the campers.

The nursing students ensure their individual cabin is stocked with daily supplies. Under supervision, students are also responsible for administering medications for campers. They assist in blood glucose checks, insulin administration, meal planning and pump site changes. Campers often experience a hypoglycemic event (low blood sugar) due to increased activity and students are readily available with glucose tablets.

While at Camp GranADA, the nursing team ensures all campers have a blood glucose reading prior to each meal, at bedtime and as needed. During the night, blood glucose checks are completed for campers at risk of hyper- and hypoglycemia. Prior to meals, the campers discuss their meal choices with the cabin team. The student nurses assist in administering the correct insulin dosage and are cognizant of changes in meal choices.

The students help educate campers on recognizing high or low blood sugar, good food choices and exercise. Campers are encouraged to give themselves their insulin injections and manage their pump site changes under supervision of a nursing student. The students are encouraged to participate in daily activities like rock wall climbing, archery, arts and crafts, hayrack rides and swimming. They develop great relationships with the campers and cabin team, and by week's end, they are exhausted, but blessed with the wonderful experience.

NEW FACULTY

Jaclyn Lamer, DNP, RN, CPN



Jaclyn Lamer, DNP, RN, CPN, has joined the highly qualified faculty at Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing in fostering learning and growth in BSN students in both the classroom and clinical arenas.

Dr. Lamer earned her BSN from the college in 2011. She provides didactic and clinical instruction in psychiatric and mental

health nursing in the undergraduate program.

“Joining the faculty at Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing has been a rewarding experience. It feels like I have come full circle, teaching at the same institution where I trained 12 years ago,” Dr. Lamer said. “The highlights of my first year include working alongside some of the same faculty that taught me as an undergraduate, meeting new people and learning how higher education is adapting in the post-COVID era. The nursing profession has been a such a blessing in my own life, and I love that I now have the opportunity to pay it forward to our next generation of nurses.”

Dr. Lamer is currently enrolled in the post-graduate psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program at the college. She hopes to combine her interests in pediatrics and psychiatry by working with this patient population upon graduation.

NEW CURRICULUM

Accelerated BSN program

The new Accelerated BSN program received approval to be offered at both Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing and Saint Anthony College of Nursing.

The program is designed for individuals who already have a bachelor’s degree and want to pursue a Bachelor of Science in nursing to begin a new career. This program is unique in that it is an accelerated **12-MONTH PROGRAM**.

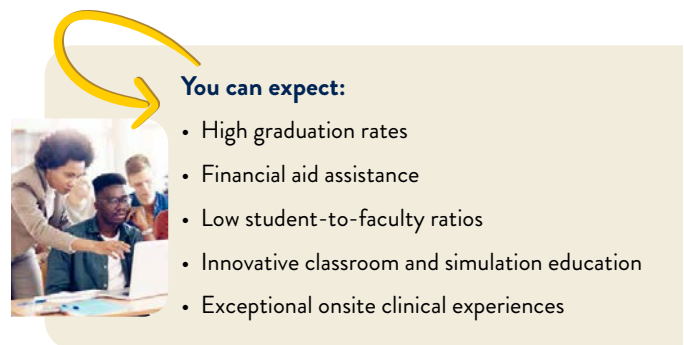
- No nursing background required to enter the program, just a bachelor’s degree and completion of nursing prerequisite courses
- It’s a one-year, intensive program
- It provides didactic, clinical and simulation educational experiences
- Be prepared to sit for the NCLEX-RN exam upon completion

ATTRACTING NEW STUDENTS

Two colleges with the same objective

In the spring of 2023, the colleges of nursing leadership worked with OSF HealthCare Marketing & Communications to develop a marketing campaign to attract new students. The “Secure Your Future” campaign isn’t just about educating future nurses, it’s a step toward combating the nursing shortage to secure our future.

The campaign highlights what the colleges of nursing in Peoria and Rockford have to offer, including above national NCLEX-RN pass rates, hands-on simulation and bedside care training. It promotes the various programs, including Early Entry, BSN, MSN and DNP. Once approved, the Accelerated BSN program was added. The campaign also offered an opportunity to update the brand colors and logos for each college. Below is an email used to recruit new students. Its message is specific to Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing. Also, visit osfcolleges.org to see the website created for the campaign.



Get started on *your* path in a growing career

Are you a high school student ready for a future career path in nursing? Or are you ready to pursue your Bachelor of Science in Nursing?

Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing in Peoria, Illinois, has graduated some of the nation’s most skilled and compassionate nurse professionals in its more than 100 years.

Get started on your path toward a stable career and potential future job placement with OSF HealthCare, one of the nation’s top-rated health care systems.



SISTER M. LUDGERA AWARDS

Fall 2022 Recipients: Brinlee Pflederer, MSN, BSN, and Jessica Luciani, MSN, BSN



Brinlee Pflederer, MSN, BSN, and Jessica Luciani, MSN, BSN, were both grateful to be co-winners of the fall Sister M. Ludgera Award.

The two, who earned their master's in December, were recognized for their project "Assessment of Substance Abuse in Pregnant Women," which describes a plan to assess pregnant mothers and provide them with education to abstain from drug use.

"The project was part of an evidence-based practice class," said Jessica, a Peoria native who works at a Peoria hospital and teaches at a nursing school. She's finished one year of her doctorate program at the college and plans to resume her studies in the spring.

A Minnesota native, Brinlee is currently living in Germany and working on her DNP from the college. She has worked in pediatric intensive care, international health and public health.

"I was working for a state-run program that cares for pregnant women, and we consistently saw women who would deny drinking or taking drugs, but then the babies would test positive when they were born," Brinlee said. "Part of the problem is the screening if there's judgment involved."

Jessica's passion for addiction recovery and mental health led her to join the project. "We did get permission to launch our project through the Tazewell County Health Department, but it's currently on hold until we do our doctorate program," she said.

The two hope their project can result in a universal screening tool similar to one used for depression.

Spring Recipient: Chelsey Judy, RN, MSN, SCRNP



Chelsey Judy, RN, MSN, SCRNP, was surprised and honored to win the spring Sister M. Ludgera Award.

"I knew there were a lot of other people in the program worthy of winning," said the Chillicothe native who earned her MSN in May.

Chelsey's first job after earning her BSN from the college in 2012 was on the urology and nephrology floor at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center. After two years, she moved to the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit, where she currently works.

"I had a nursing bucket list I wanted to do before I went to grad school," she said. "It was ICU and also hospice. So after the ICU, I worked as a hospice nurse for four years. I loved doing both, but when I started grad school I went back to neuro ICU and I've been there since 2020."

Working full time while earning her master's and raising two young children was challenging, but Chelsey said, "I had had time to learn and feel comfortable as an RN and was ready to build upon that knowledge."

Chelsey also served as the graduate student representative. Her nomination for the award commended her professionalism, positive attitude and eagerness to help.

"My parents always taught me to watch out for other people and make sure that everybody's OK and nobody's falling behind," she said. "I believe people pick up on the energy you emit, and I want people to look forward to working with me."



Sister M. Ludgera

This award is named in honor of Sister Mary Ludgera, RN, PhD, who led the transformation of the School of Nursing to the College of Nursing. Born in Germany in 1927, she came to the United States and earned her diploma from the Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing in 1956.

Over the next 20 years, she worked in a number of nursing roles at different hospitals and also got involved in nursing education. In 1976, she was named director of the School of Nursing. From 1983–86, Sister Ludgera and her faculty initiated the transition from a general nursing program to one that offered a BSN. The first class of baccalaureate students graduated in 1988. Graduate programs would follow, and the College grew in stature.

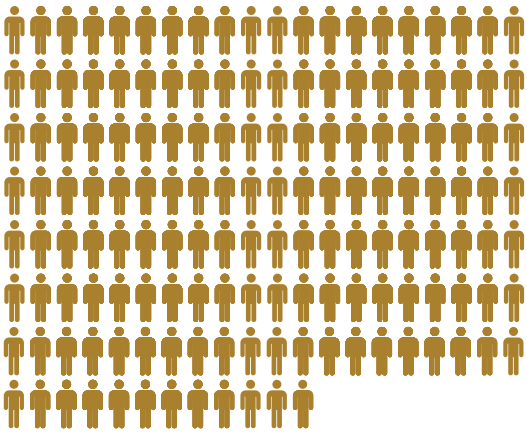
Sister Ludgera led the College for 27 years, before her death during a trip to Germany in 2004.

The Sister M. Ludgera Award is presented to a graduate of the College's master's program who has demonstrated outstanding nursing practice, caring patient interactions, problem-solving abilities or outstanding teaching abilities.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIALS

SCHOLARSHIPS

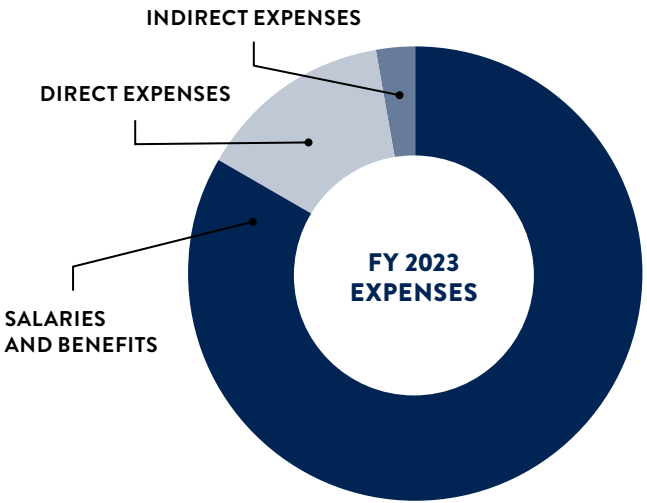
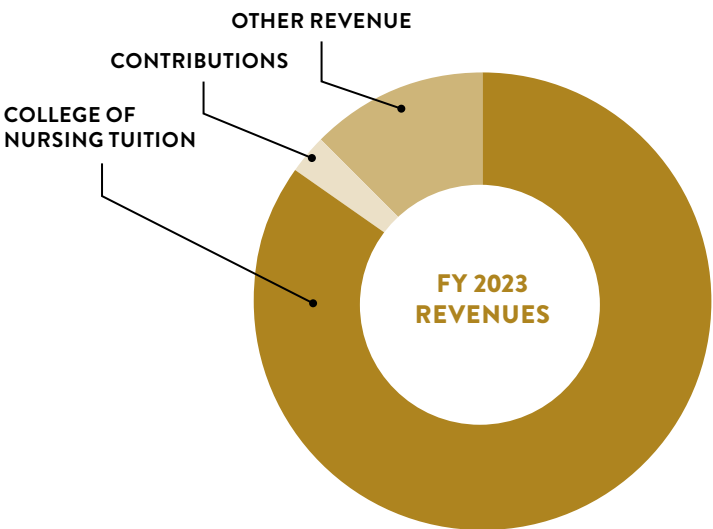
Saint Francis College of Nursing awarded **152** scholarships.



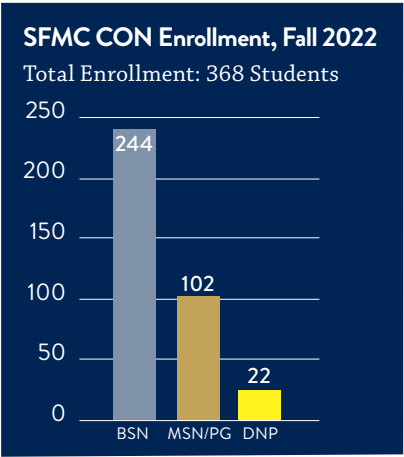
The dollar amount awarded was **\$372,321.**

REVENUES	
Total revenue <i>(including federal support)</i>	\$8,253,560

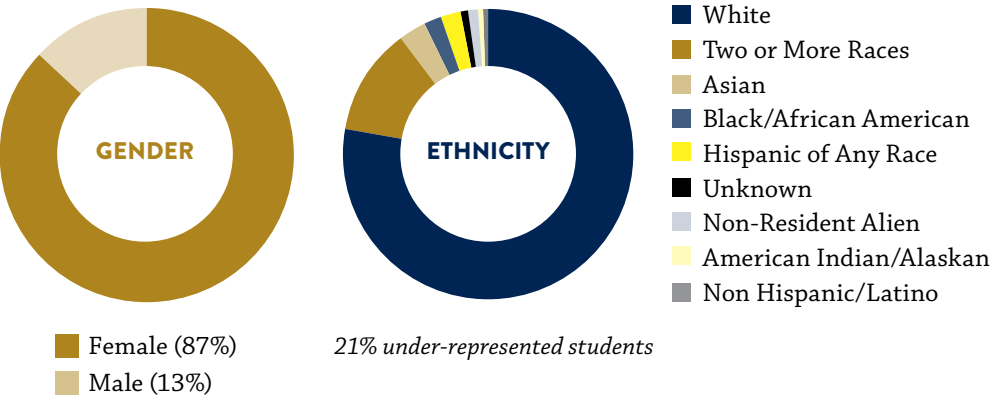
EXPENSES	
Salaries and benefits	\$6,793,128
Direct expenses <i>(e.g. maintenance, marketing, equipment)</i>	\$1,185,813
Indirect expenses <i>(e.g. utilities)</i>	\$274,619
Total net income	0



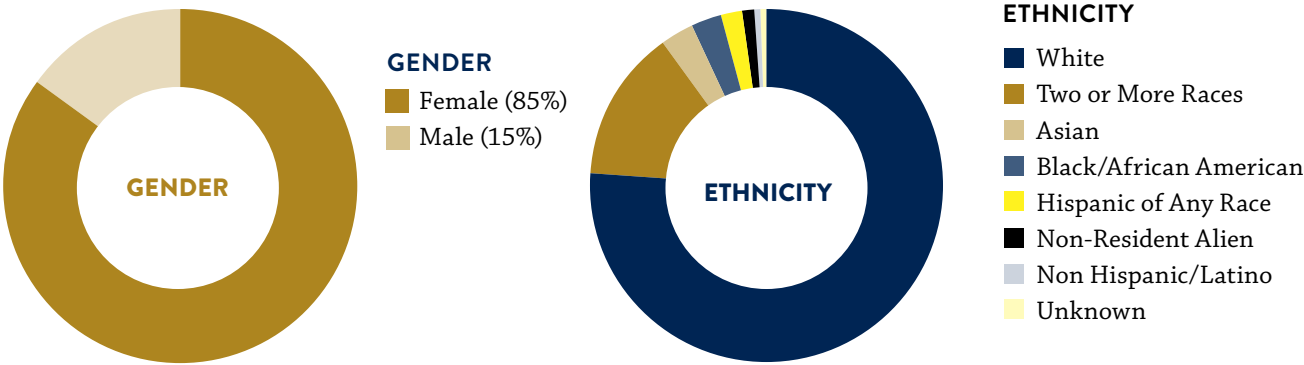
OUR STUDENTS



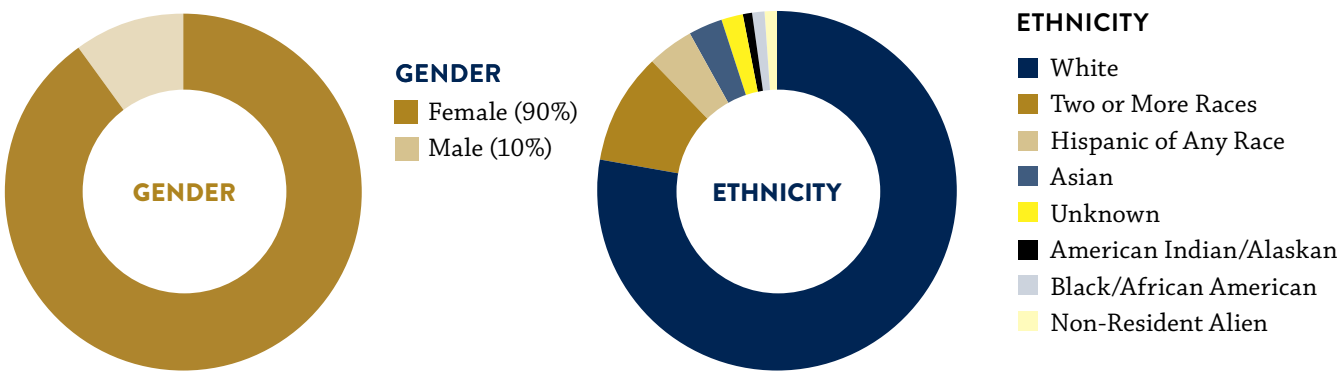
Overall Demographics



Undergraduate Program Enrollment Data

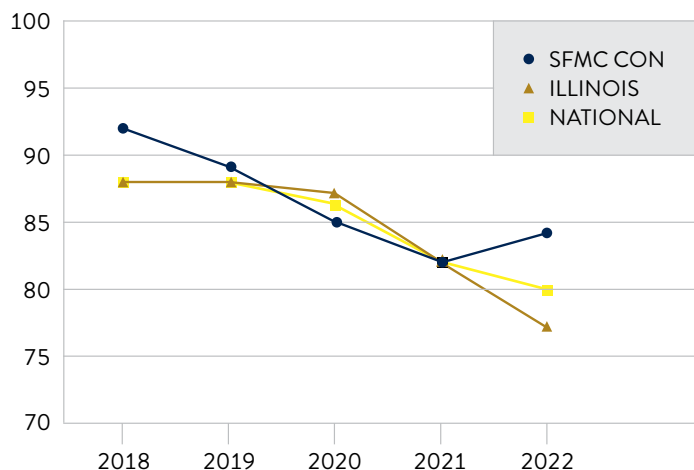


Graduate Program Enrollment Data

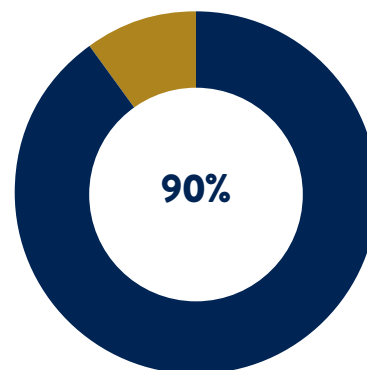


STATISTICS

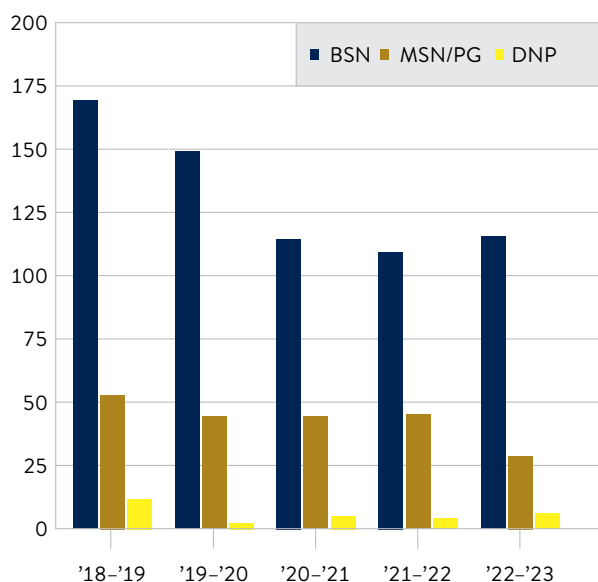
NCLEX Pass Rates



MSN/DNP Graduate Student Certification Pass Rate 2022



Graduation class size by degree



Average GPA

(As of end of Spring 2023 semester)

BSN	3.48
MSN/PG	3.81
DNP	3.98

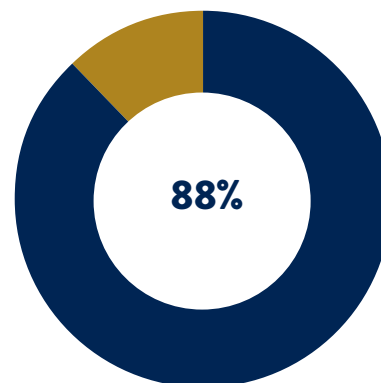
2022 Job Placement

(Within one year of graduation)



Note: Job placement rates are primarily based on alumni surveys. For 2022 alumni, reporting on 94% of BSN, 77% of MSN and 100% of DNP graduates.

New Student Retention 2021-22



88% of new students who enrolled in Fall 2021 were still enrolled in Fall 2022.

COMMENCEMENT



GRADUATION DINNER



COLLEGE BOARD MEMBERS

Robert Anderson, MS, MT, FACHE

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Tim Bromley, MA, LCPC

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OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center

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Patient Care Manager, Labor and Delivery and Breastfeeding
Resource Center, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center

Susan Smith, MSN, RN

Manager, Senior World Adult Day Service and Faith Community
Nursing, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center

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The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis

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Student Representative - College Board,
Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Bailey Norton

Student Representative - College Board,
Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

College Board Emeriti

Sarah Buller Fenton, MS, RN, BC
Director of Nursing, Tazewell County Health Department (*retired*)

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Interim President of the College
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

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Dean, Undergraduate Program
PhD, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado

Carole Eatock, DNP, APRN-FPA, FNP-C

Dean, Graduate Program
DNP, University of Illinois-Chicago, Rockford, Illinois

Kevin Stephens, BS

Assistant Dean, Support Services
BS, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois

FACULTY

Kaitlin Bailey, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

MSN, Kaplan University, Des Moines, Iowa

Nancy R. Bailey, DNP, RN, CNE, Assistant Professor

DNP, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Leigh Ann Bonney, PhD, RN, CCRN, CNE, Professor

PhD, Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois

Laura Bowers, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, Instructor

DNP, University of Missouri – Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri

Susan Buck, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

MSN, Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Krissy Coffman, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

MSN, University of Phoenix, Phoenix, Arizona

Kelly J. Cone, PhD, RN, CNE, Professor

PhD, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri

Rebecca Culp, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

MSN, Kaplan University (*online*)

Mark Dabbs, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Robert J. Degitz, PhD, RN, CCRN, Assistant Professor

PhD, Mennonite College of Nursing at ISU, Normal, Illinois

Karen Ehle, MS, RN, Instructor

MS, Mennonite College of Nursing at ISU, Normal, Illinois

Katie Fosburgh, MSN, RN, Instructor

MSN, Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College, St. Louis, Missouri

Megan Frye, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Christina Garcia, PhD, RN, NE-BC, Professor

PhD, Mennonite College of Nursing at ISU, Normal, Illinois

Erin Havron, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Gerri Hellhake-Hall, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, Assistant Professor

DNP, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Jordan Herring, MSN, RN, CNP, Assistant Professor

MSN, Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, Utah

Theresa Hoadley, PhD, RN, TNS, Professor

MSN, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado

Amber Hulet, MSN, RN, Instructor

MSN, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois

Jeremy Hulet, MSN, RN, CVRN, Assistant Professor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Melissa Joos, MSN, APRN, ACNS-BC, Assistant Professor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Angela Kouri, MSN, RN, RN-BC, Instructor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Jaclyn Lamer, DNP, RN, CPN, Instructor

DNP, University of Illinois-Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

Terri Lipps, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, Associate Professor

DNP, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Margaret Markley, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

MSN, Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, Utah

FACULTY *(cont.)*

Dana McVicker, MSN, RN, Instructor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Stephanie Meuser, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, Assistant Professor

MSN, Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois

Theresa Miller, PhD, RN, Professor

PhD, Capella University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Tiereny Minassian, MSN, APN, FNP-C, Assistant Professor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Lisa Pitzer, MSN, RN, CNE, CNE-cl, Instructor/Nursing Resource Center Coordinator

MSN, NED Program, University of Phoenix, Phoenix, Arizona

Victoria Schick, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Crystal Slaughter, DNP, APRN, ACNS-BC, Professor

DNP, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Sheri Streitmatter, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

MSN, Chamberlain University of Nursing, Addison, Illinois

Jillian Thomas, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Michelle Thompson, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

MSN, Chamberlain College of Nursing, Downers Grove, Illinois

Angela Timm, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

MSN, University of Phoenix Online, Phoenix, Arizona

Cara Turnbull, MSN, BSN, Assistant Professor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Rebecca Vaughn, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

MSN, University of Kansas School of Nursing, Kansas City, Kansas

Jessica Verplaetse, MSN, RN, RNC-NIC, Assistant Professor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Alissa Watkins, MSN, RN, PCNS-BC, Associate Professor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Rebecca Weaver, MSN, RN, MHNP, Assistant Professor

MSN, Rush University, Chicago, Illinois

June West, MSN, RN, Instructor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Carolyn (CJ) Wright Boon, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

Jenna Yates, MSN, RN, CRRN, Instructor

MSN, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

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Director of Admissions/Registrar

Kimberly Buffington

Undergraduate Program Admissions Assistant

Michaela Cordes

Assistant, Student Finance, Financial Assistance

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Graduate Program Admissions Assistant

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Elizabeth Zaluska

College Support Representative (CSR)

Sam Zangara

Professional Recruiter



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osfhealthcare.org/sfmcccon/admissions/apply/
(309) 655-2201

ALUMNI

Angela Kautz, *Alumni Relations Representative*
Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing
(309) 633-7353
Angela.N.Kautz@osfhealthcare.org

DEVELOPMENT/FOUNDATION

Curt LeRoy, *Major Gifts Officer*
(309) 566-5667
Curt.A.LeRoy@osfhealthcare.org

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