

GATEWAY

to Health

ISSUE 4 | SPRING 2022



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Meet FGC's new Executive Director of Nursing and Health Sciences.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Governor DeSantis Awards Funds that Support Rapid Credentialing Nursing Programs

ABOUT

the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences

The mission of the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences is to provide high quality and affordable nursing and healthcare programs that will produce highly educated, caring, and compassionate graduates, who will meet the workforce needs within our local and surrounding communities, while making a lifetime commitment to continuous education.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Nursing, B.S. (RN-BSN)
- Registered Nursing, A.S. (ASDN-RN)
- LPN-RN Bridge: Traditional Full-Time
- LPN-RN Bridge: Fast Track
- Practical Nursing, O.C. (PN)
- Physical Therapist Assistant, A.S.
- Health Information Technology, A.S.
- Medical Coder/Biller, A.T.D.
- Phlebotomy, O.C.

GATEWAY TO HEALTH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

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LETTER

from the Executive Director



It has been 10 weeks since I took on the challenge as the Executive Director of Nursing and Health Sciences, and, so far, it has been an amazing start to this new chapter of my life as an educator. After years of being an adjunct professor in the EMS Programs at Florida State College at Jacksonville, I came to Florida Gateway College in January 2012 as the Faculty / Coordinator for the EMS Program that was experiencing its own set of challenges at the time.

Following the retirement of Dr. Shane Neely-Smith, I was presented with an opportunity to grow in my profession, and bring some of the strategies that I learned in EMS to the Nursing and Health Sciences Department. Fortunately for me, Dr. Neely-Smith had the faculty and policies set in motion that would propel these programs forward.

The vision I have for these programs encompasses the two factors that give me the most purpose from this position: the faculty and the students we serve. Upon my arrival, I was delighted to find administrative staff and faculty members that are dedicated, passionate and engaged. They are all invested in the success of FGC students, and I couldn't be more blessed. Moving forward, I want to make sure they have the tools they need and the autonomy to perform at an even greater level. The innate gifts of each professor should come to light in the classroom. I want them to feel like they "get" to come to work, and not feel like they "have" to come to work. At this point, I feel my greatest gift to them has been to ensure that their voices are heard, that their talents are recognized and that their ideas are validated. The

professors in this department are the experts in their respective fields, and they have some spectacular ideas as to what will help students be more successful. I hope I have been able to provide them with more ownership and empower them to implement strategies that will benefit students and our community. We have some fantastic educators, and I want to keep them here, serving students and our institution. I want this to be the place that educators love to work. I believe that the students absorb the energy around them, and that happy, satisfied faculty emit a more positive energy. I want faculty to know that I am their greatest cheerleader and biggest champion. I also want them to be able to think outside of the box. Today's learners are not the same as they have been

in the past. Be creative. Be innovative. Be even more AMAZING! Take your teaching to the next level. Don't do things because that is how it has always been done. Consider how we might be able to do things better. FGC students deserve the very best versions of us – collectively, we have SO much to offer.

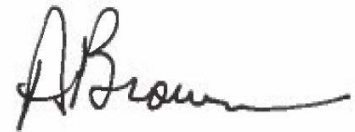
My primary focus for the students is that they are able to graduate, pass their certification exam (if applicable), and go to work as competent professionals in their chosen field of study. I want them to be confident that their professors have provided them with the tools they need and that they are adequately prepared for what they will face following graduation. The health sciences are not for everyone, and they are NOT easy programs. The people wanting to enter these professions do so because they are called to it. In these professions, people put their lives in the hands of a stranger and trust that their needs will be met. I want our graduates to be at their best when caring for those who are

at their most vulnerable. It is because of them that we are setting the bar high for students. We are setting the bar high because these professions deserve no less. We are setting the bar high because that is what is required for our students to truly be successful. We are setting the bar high because there is more to this than simply getting through the program. It is what will enable graduates to walk into their certification exams with confidence. We are setting the bar high so graduates can enter the workforce and become what they have worked so hard for. We are setting the bar high because someone we love may need them one day. Again – it is not easy. It is hard. It is REALLY hard. But it is so worth the effort. I want our students to want this for themselves as much as we, the faculty and staff of the Nursing and Health Sciences programs, want it for them.

To the faculty, staff and students of the Nursing and Health Sciences Department -

show me what you want, work for what you want, and your efforts will be matched with equal energy. This is my promise to you.

Thank you all for what you bring to the table. I can't wait to see how far we will go... together.



Executive Director of Nursing and Health Sciences

Ann D. Brown, Executive Director of Florida Gateway College's Nursing and Health Sciences, enjoys a rich personal and professional life. She is married with two grown children and four grandchildren. Her 32 years of service and experience in Emergency Medical Services and Critical Care Nursing began in 1990 when she received her Paramedic certification from Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ). Mrs. Brown went on to receive both an Associate degree in Nursing and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from FSCJ. Education plays a vital role in Mrs. Brown's life; she earned her Master of Science degree in Nursing Education in 2015 from Western Governors University. She continues to embrace education and will begin her doctoral studies this summer at Florida State University, studying Educational Leadership. Mrs. Brown's service to Florida Gateway College began ten years ago, and she is proud to continue that service in the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Welcome **FACULTY**

The Department of Nursing & Health Sciences Welcomes Its Latest Faculty Additions



Teresa **FLOWERS**

Assistant Professor, Nursing

**Master of Science, Nursing – University of Phoenix
Former Nursing Professor at Keiser University**

Fun Fact: “I am an animal lover. I have a Great Dane named PRIMROSE and an English Lab named ILEX. I also have two cats! One named COONTIE and one named MAL. I name my pets after plants.”



Kelly **KALINOWSKI**

Assistant Professor, Nursing

**Master of Science, Nursing – University of Phoenix
Former Assistant Professor at Delta College**

Fun Fact: “I have finished a triathlon.”



Colorful COLLABORATIONS

Art in Building 103 Serves as A Mood Buffer Delivery System

By CHRISTA PRIBBLE

Merriam-Webster defines the word buffer as a verb: “to lessen the shock of: cushion”; they define it as a noun: “something that serves as a protective barrier...”.

The collaborative artworks in progress throughout building 103 in both classrooms and hallways, may be described as buffers, in this author’s opinion. I believe these pieces are ways to cushion the shocks of the unexpected or protect the moods of the artists who learn and work in building 103. I believe this protection and cushion comes from looking at those pieces, creating their new color combinations, and enjoying their whimsical scenes if only for a moment or two. I know I delight in their fascinating mixtures of colors and shapes and am pleased to see any new progress that is added day-by-day. Thank you to everyone who has participated in giving these pieces their unique character and hues, your work is so appreciated.

Another offering of gratitude is given to the original catalyst behind these artworks, the Executive Director of DNHS, Ann Brown. Her vision to add these pieces to the hallways and classrooms has offered us all a welcome respite from everyday tasks, if only for a moment.

The Practical Nursing students described their thoughts about working on the lion piece pictured. Allie Pinner said, “I thought it was therapeutic”, while Tanysha Shaw said the opportunity to add to the artwork offered her, “a good mental break”. Meriah Stewart said she looks at the artwork as a “stress reliever.” LaShonda Wilson also added this perspective that went beyond the individual and addressed how the needs of a group can be enhanced with art; she said, “It helps us work together.”



NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES *Career Fair at FGC*

By STEPHEN CULOTTI

On Wednesday, Feb. 23, Florida Gateway College hosted a Healthcare Career Fair for all upcoming Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant, and Health Information Technology Program graduates. More than 30 students participated in the fair to meet with potential employers and learn

about the opportunities available after Graduation. Medical employers from around the region were in attendance to meet with and recruit soon-to-be FGC healthcare graduates. Employers included: Lake City Medical Center, North Florida Regional Medical Center, Brooks Rehabilitation, Centurion, Select Specialty Hospital, UF Health Rehab, and Meridian.

“Our local employers are seeking out ambitious and ready-to-get-into-the-workforce graduates,” said Julie Cannon, Director of Dual Enrollment and Career Services at FGC. “The goal of our office is to ensure that students have every opportunity before their graduation from Florida Gateway College to have employment secured or to transfer to the university of their choice.”

DN&HS IN THE COMMUNITY

2022 College Night at Richardson Community Center

By JAPER K. DENSON

On Thursday, March 10th, FGC hosted its 2022 College Night at Richardson Community Center. Over 70 attendees were greeted by FGC faculty, staff, and volunteers as they entered the building's historic orange and green gymnasium.

Tables with representatives from the College's diverse academic and career technical programs lined the perimeter of the gymnasium floor. Throughout the event, attendees chatted with vendors, college instructors, and even demoed several simulated exhibits.

Following the event, Mr. Travis George, FGC's Director of Multicultural Affairs and Special Projects, remarked how great it was to see so many community leaders, families, and potential students in attendance. He shared that the event was a concerted effort between FGC, Richardson Community Center, and Northstar Family Resource Center, and that the support of the FGC family made the event a true success for the community.



Youth attendee puts out a simulated fire.



Dr. Stephen Agyare provides attendees with information about the Health Information Technology and Medical Coder/Biller programs.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Governor DeSantis Awards Funds that Support Rapid Credentialing Nursing Programs

By PATRICIA ORENDER

On January 20th, 2022, Florida Governor, Ron DeSantis, awarded a total of \$2.3 million in funding to support rapid credentialing workforce and educational programs to six institutions for Commercial Driver's License and nursing related training programs. Governor DeSantis awarded a total of \$285,000 to bolster nursing programs at two colleges, Florida Gateway College and the College of the Florida Keys. Florida Gateway College was awarded \$135,000 for their nursing programs.

FGC's Nursing and Health Sciences Executive Director, Ann Brown, and Director of ASDN and Certificate Programs, Patricia Orender, announced to the current Practical Nursing students on March 1st, that FGC would be using some of the funds to pay for the students summer tuition and textbooks. The College administra-

tion thought it was important for the students to personally feel the financial relief, while helping to impact their program performance and completion.

Student Statements:

"I just want to take the time to say thank you and how much I'm grateful for this grant that was presented to the Practical Nursing class of 2022. From a personal standpoint this will be a blessing to me and my family. I am a single mom, with four children and paying for school on my own. These funds will open up so many doors for me financially and emotionally! This grant helps me free up time so I can focus on my studying. I am overjoyed for this opportunity and makes me more confident of my success and completion of this program." - **2022 Practical Nursing student Shakeirra Edwards**

"The grant provided to Florida Gateway College for the nursing

programs will be a tremendous blessing to myself and other students in the Practical Nursing program. I am a first-generation college student, and I am extremely grateful for any financial assistance provided that helps further my education. This assistance can reduce financial burden and decrease stress so I can focus that energy on my studies. THANK YOU!" - **2022 Practical Nursing student Savannah Wheeler**

"What it means for FGC, to be paying for my summer semester, it takes a lot of responsibility off my plate to be able to come to class and only concentrate on just focusing on school and not having to focus on how I'm going to pay my tuition. This is a blessing for me and I greatly appreciate FGC for thinking of the PN program students." - **2022 Practical Nursing student LaShonda Wilson**



Pictured from left to right: Professor Susan Espenship, Alli Pinner, Zora Foster, Meriah Stewart and Professor Janice Helfenberger

PRACTICAL NURSING: *Students Caught “Doing Good”*

By ANN BROWN

As faculty and administrators, we always stress to students that we work, live and learn in a small community and that someone is always watching. We try to teach students that they are a reflection of the college whenever they are wearing their uniform, and that they should behave accordingly. We also tell them that people are quick to contact us when someone in an FGC uniform demonstrates unprofessional behaviors.

We never really know if these words sink in. Once in a while, however, students are caught doing something positive, and that was the case recently. A member of the community contacted one of our faculty members to comment how kind some Practical Nursing (PN) students had been to some elderly patrons at a local Taco Bell. The students were on their lunch break and noticed some folks were struggling with placing their orders at the new self-service kiosks. The students

stepped up without hesitation and assisted a number of patrons with their orders. The bystanders noticed the appreciation from those they had helped and reached out to let us know that their random acts of kindness had not gone unnoticed.

The students pictured above were recognized for going out and doing good in our community, and they were presented with a gift certificate as a small gesture of appreciation for their selfless actions.

Student PERSPECTIVES

FGC Students Share Their Perspectives of the Nursing and Health Sciences Programs



DESARAE GILLYARD – Physical Therapy Assistant

"If someone were to ask me about my perspective of the program, I would tell them that it's an amazing program, but it takes a lot of hard work and dedication to get through it. It takes a lot of out-of-class time to study and finish the required material, so it may not be the best to take these courses while working. However, making the sacrifice for one year is worth your future job as a PTA. One of my favorite things about the program is that it's very hands-on, which will prepare you for when you get out into the field. Overall, the PTA program is a wonderful experience and the professors have done a wonderful job preparing us to enter the field."



BRADLEY SOMMER – Emergency Medical Services

"I think that this is the most interesting program I have ever been in. I love the fast-paced environment and how the information is presented to us. I also really appreciate the amount of help the instructors are willing to give us through the program when we run into trouble. It's extremely helpful that we can apply the skills we learn in class to real life situations during our clinicals, it definitely helps me get a better understanding of how things work in the real world. Overall, I would definitely recommend this program at this college to my family and friends who are interested in EMS services!"



KIMBERLY SYKES – Health Information Technology

"The HIT program has allowed me to receive my applied technology diploma in Medical Billing and Coding as well as pursue my first degree. I will graduate with my Associate of Science Degree in May with the class of 2022. The HIT program has not only prepared me to take my state exams and receive my credentials, it has also equipped me for the career and job market that I will be entering. The guidance of my professors, as well as the professional practice experiences that I have received at FGC, have set me up for success in my future endeavors."



ARLYESKA MONTALVO MORALES — RN-BSN

I graduated FGC's ASDN program in May of 2021 and I am currently doing my RN to BSN at FGC. When I first started nursing school, I didn't know what to expect. I knew that I would have my challenges, but it was not what I expected. As everyone does, I struggled and had my strengths and weaknesses. During my first semester, nursing school was a different world. I had to understand the material in depth. I had to understand how to answer the questions and how to critically think. I struggled a lot during my first semester. I failed a couple of tests, but that did not mean that it was the end of the world, even though it felt like it. I worked the whole time that I was in nursing school and time management is a big component in helping you succeed during nursing school. You have to find out what works for you and what doesn't. During my second semester of nursing school, I figured out how to study the material. I figured out I studied best when I included multiple resources to study. I read the book, made my own study guide, drew pictures, looked at videos, even made my own songs to some of the material. After this, I realized that it worked for me. During my 2nd, 3rd and 4th semester, I was doing well. I found out what worked for me and stuck with it. I remember waking up early in the morning to study and being up until bedtime. My friends and family would go out and I would have to study. I do not regret anything. The amount of work that I put into studying and learning has rewarded me in the nursing profession. You are not studying to pass tests and get through it, you are studying to save lives and know what to do.

The instructors that we have are amazing and supportive. Anything that you need you can always reach out to them. I had a close family member pass away during my last semester of the ASDN program and I had to travel to Puerto Rico for the funeral. I remember how supportive and flexible my instructor was, and she gave me everything that I needed in order for me not to fall behind.

Now as I am doing my BSN and working as a nurse, the ASDN program gave me the skills and knowledge that I need in order to be successful. The BSN program has reinforced a lot of material and has given me more knowledge and skills.

The BSN program is very flexible and I have been able to work as a full time RN while I finish my BSN.

If you need any extra help, you can always reach out to the instructors and they will help you with what you need.

I am glad to be a part of the nursing profession and FGC's nursing program.

*Become an FGC Nursing & Health Sciences
student today!*

<https://www.fgc.edu/academics/programs/health-sciences>

DN&HS Spotlights

OUTSTANDING Alumni

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



Back Row (from left to right): Austin Polk (Instructor), Jacob Hendrix, Thomas Burgett, Ryan Cumbie, Scott Robinson (Instructor). Front Row (from left to right): Robert Kiem, Matthew Chupp, David Cook, Ashlhynn Harris

By AUSTIN POLK

The instructors of the Emergency Medical Services program at the Florida Gateway College Avery and Twyla Roberts School of Public Service would like to give a well-deserved alumni spotlight and congratulations to the graduating Paramedic class of December 2021. Within two months of completing a rigorous, schedule-packed program, 100% of these graduates passed the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians cognitive exam to allow them to obtain their State of Florida paramedic certifications! All seven students are also currently employed as paramedics at the following departments: City of Gainesville Fire Rescue, Gilchrist County Fire Rescue, City of Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, and Baker County Fire Rescue. The faculty of the Emergency Medical Services program are extremely proud of these graduates' accomplishments.



Seth Reaves and Elizabeth Rehberg

Spring 2021 ASDN program graduates win the Lake City Medical Center 2022 Rookie of the Year Award.

"Receiving Rookie of The Year was very encouraging. Even though I have a lot to learn, it reassured me that I'm cut out for the career of nursing. It's easy as a grad nurse to doubt your place in a new position, but this superlative gave me confidence I didn't know I needed."

– Seth Reaves, RN

MEDICAL CODER/BILLER



Tymaya Fulton, CCA

Medical Coder/Biller, ATD | Spring 2021 Graduate

What got you started on the Coding career path? "My passion for the medical field."

What are your goals as a Coding professional? "One of my goals is to soak up all the information that I can so that I can become the best coder I know I can be."

What is a fun fact about yourself? "When I first started college, I wanted to be a kindergarten teacher!"

How has graduating from FGC changed your life? "Since graduating from FGC I have had up and downs finding a job with my degree, but with faith and perseverance I was able to find a job in no time. I currently work for UF Health as an HIM Analyst."



NURSE BURNOUT

or Compassion Fatigue: Strategies for Combatting a Rising Phenomenon

By DELIA MAXWELL-WHITE

Are you experiencing a disagreement in conduct, mental attitude, or purpose? Perhaps you're encountering feelings of dullness and indifference in your care toward patients. If you can relate to any of these descriptions, research says you may be suffering from burnout or compassion fatigue.

Nurses are known to have a higher level of burnout than any other profession. This upsurge is expected largely because of the workload demands and responsibilities that accompany the nursing profession. In 2019, the World Health Organization pronounced burnout as an occupational phenomenon and further declared it as a serious health issue.

Initial stages of burnout (BO) appear as subtle changes in personality, perspective, values, and behavior. If left to fester, it can lead to stronger and more evident feelings of exhaustion, cynicism, and hopelessness.

Compassion fatigue (CF), on the other hand, is the progressive depletion of compassionate energy. Additionally, nurses often find that providing care becomes emotionally taxing and physically and spiritually exhausting. Nurses experiencing burnout or compassion fatigue can become angry, frustrated, depressed, and anxious (Henson, 2020). Burnout and CF function similarly in that they both interfere with a nurse's ability to provide quality care while simultaneously take a toll on one's quality of life.

If you are experiencing any of these signs or symptoms, speak to a medical professional and seek the help you need. To help combat burnout, compassion fatigue, and stress, Carthon et al. (2021) recommended 10 helpful preventative practices:

1. **Mindfulness:** Consider increasing your awareness and presence in the moment.
2. **Mindset shift:** Think differently about stress, such as the opposite, to what you initially feel from the stressor.
3. **Mediation:** Embrace stillness and focus to allow the brain to achieve a state of calm.
4. **Decrease conflict:** Assess for conflict in systems and between individuals.

5. **Rest periods:** Recover and recharge both mentally and physically.

6. **Get adequate sleep:** Try to get the recommended 7-9 hours of sleep per night for ideal health.

7. **Healthy diet and exercise:** Make plans to improve your mental and physical condition.

8. **Listen to the body:** Often nurses are so busy that they don't stop to take time for themselves and/or follow their instincts.

9. **Take time to think:** Patients benefit from better care when there is less rushing and more thinking through processes.

10. **Use positive psychology principles:** Clarify values, define meaningful work, and set clear goals for what you expect from your life.

Lastly, I want to leave this encouraging quote from the American Nurses Association: "Nursing is the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities; prevention of illness and injury; facilitation of healing; alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response; and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations."

Let us continue to strengthen and support each nurse in all areas of care while staying true to the heart of what nurses are called to do.

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Congratulations **SPRING 2022** Graduates!

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE Nursing

Jennifer Rodgers

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE Nursing

Kimberley Allen
Leavy Alvarez Jr.
Jordyn Horne Banner
Allyson Marie Berg
Tyshawn Cory Blakely
James Harley Breeden
Chanda Lee Butler
Shalyla Monique Davis
Rebecca Jean Dean
Amanda Marie Delk
Billy Dewayne Edmonds Jr.
Claudia Faith Feagle
Julia Claudette Feraudo
Tiffany Gaskins
Lacey Dawn Geiger
Daniela Geisler
Sharon Smith Hall
Catlin Lee Harvin

Emilie Renee Hodges
Amy Culbreth Holtzclaw
Tina Thanh Huynh
Misty Dawn Hysmith
Jonette Kelly
Shelby Michaela King
Gina Villegas Langford
Breana Marie McCurry
Robert Logan Muse
Ronald Clayton Nash
Courtney Rachelle Osteen
Chesney Lynn Overstreet
Johnette Witherspoon Owens
Weslyn Paget
Payal Y. Patel
Jesslyn Laine Phillips
Eugenia Dominique Powell
Teresa Gayle Raulerson
Melissa Rhoades
Carly Dianna Scott
Alyssa Dawn Starling
Whitney Marie Stemple
Rebekah Joy Stitt
Noah Matthew Thompson
Elizabeth Claire Valle
Bryan Charles Wagner
Shaleena Waldron
McKenna Lee Williams

Health Information Technology, A.S.

Amber Gist
Robyn Danielle Sims
Kimberly Alicia Sykes
Terissa Q. Taylor

CERTIFICATE Emergency Medical Technician

Nellie Elizabeth Crlenjak
William L. Elledge
Skyla S. Hill
Daniel Marrero
Ariana Nicole Rix
John A. Roberts
Meagan Jean Smith
Bradley C. Sommer
Christa Marie Upshaw
Nicole Nikita VanGieson
Brooke Michal Ward

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMA

Medical Coder/Biller
Tammy Charlotte Seymone Bellamy
Candace S. Hall
Elnora Elizabeth Hampton
Caroline Choe Johnson
Karen Patricia Lee
Charlene Anne Matthews
Carrie Dawn McDaniel
Melissa Michelle Rizer



STUDENT-LED EDUCATION

ASDN Students Present Pediatric Teaching Project

By TYSHAWN BLAKELY, ASDN Class President,
Spring 2022

What is more rewarding than being an upcoming nursing graduate that has an opportunity to provide education on the promotion of health for the pediatric population in the community? To this student-nurse, nothing is more rewarding.

Florida Gateway College and the Associate of Science degree in Nursing (ASDN) program's course on Maternal, Infant, Child, Adolescent nursing (MICA), brought a meaningful experience to the students involved this spring. The Pediatric teaching project allowed sophomores to improve our academic skills by applying what we know to the real world. This year, the ASDN nursing students presented their Pediatric teaching projects amongst each other. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, sophomore nursing students would have had the opportunity to go out into the community and share their Pediatric teaching projects. Although we would have loved to be able to do this, all the students did an awesome job presenting educational health and safety information on topics that included: anxiety, vaping, puberty, cyberbullying, fire safety, and much more. With the knowledge we were able to gain from each other's projects, I believe we can move forward and share this information with others to promote a healthy and safe Pediatric community.



ASDN students demonstrate pediatric skills.



ASDN's MICA class gather for a group photo.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

EMS Students Practice Airway Management

By AUSTIN POLK

Airway management is critical for all patients, especially critical patients in the emergent, prehospital setting. Students in the Emergency Medical Services programs at the Avery and Twyla Roberts School of Public Service for Florida Gateway College are taught this importance and have access to state-of-the-art equipment to practice airway management on critical patients. During the first semester of the Paramedic program, students are taught advanced airway management skills such as endotracheal intubation and even surgical cricothyrotomy. Such procedures are normally only seen in stable environments, but it is incredibly important for prehospital providers to be able to provide such life-saving interventions. Paramedic students get hours upon hours of hands-on practice performing these procedures, learn from real-life events of other providers and patients, and also have the opportunity to attend a professional airway course hosted by Bradford County Fire Rescue in conjunction with the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland. At the well esteemed Baltimore Airway Course, students attend lectures about airway management and management of respiratory distress patients, get hands-on experience with cadavers practicing airway management interventions and techniques, and attend case studies hosted by University of Maryland physicians to learn about patient management and outcomes. The foundation for all of this begins here in Olustee!



EMS students conduct airway management simulations.



EMS students conduct airway management simulations.

ENHANCING ACADEMIC STANDARDS:

A Poster Project in Progress



By Dr. Deborah H. Smith

It is with pleasure that I share a glimpse of an ongoing poster project; entitled Enhancing Academic Standards: Impact on Study Habits, Attrition, & Academic Performance Among Nursing Students Enrolled in a Medical/Surgical Course. The general aims of the project are as follows: 1) explore the impact of increased academic course requirements upon study habits, attrition, and academic performance among nursing students; 2) generate and disseminate data to add to an existing body of knowledge within the discipline of nursing; and, 3) last, but not least, a selfish, but benign quest for the rediscovery of the joy of scholarly inquiry.

The educational preparation of nurses impacts patient care services. Thus, nursing programs are challenged with meeting the need for a sufficient number of culturally diverse and better educated nurses. Many studies have identified an array of factors that impact the attrition rate and academic performance among nursing students. One approach to address this issue is to explore pathways to decrease attrition and improve overall academic performance through rigorous academic standards, such as the required course completion criteria.

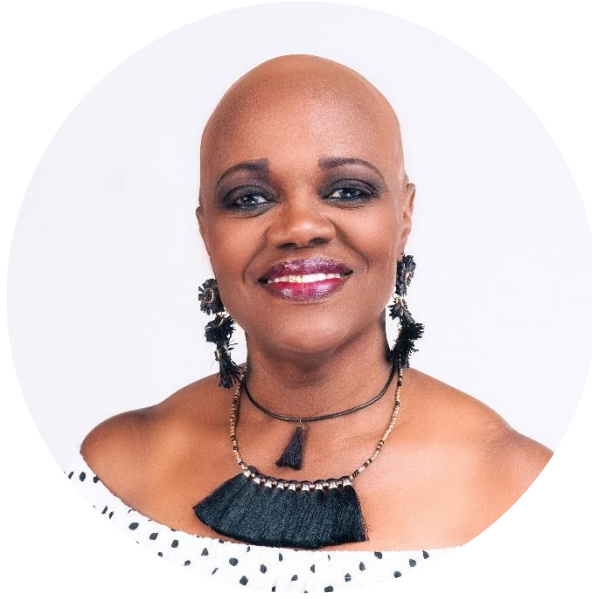
This project will analyze and compare data regarding study habits, attrition, and academic performance among a group of students from the

end of a nursing course with a lower course completion standard through the completion of the next course stipulating a higher course completion criterion. The results will determine recommendations regarding future strategies to improve and sustain the academic performance of nursing students.

An abstract will be generated for submission to one or more professional affiliations for the purpose of sharing the results and to generate continued discussion among nursing colleagues regarding this issue to help foster policies and initiatives to enhance student success and academic performance.

Reference

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2014). Leading initiatives: Defining scholarship for the discipline of nursing. Washington, DC: Author



Meet the FACULTY

Get to know Dr. Sandra Webb, DNP, RN, NHCE Assistant Professor of Nursing

Where were you born and raised?

Jacksonville, Florida

What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy cruises, family gatherings, and shopping!

What inspired you to become a nurse?

My inspiration to become a nurse was a dream after completing high school. At that time, I chose Surgical Technology because of the reduced time frame to quickly obtain a job and help my mom financially. However, my dream was fulfilled 20 plus years later while encouraging my daughter to enroll at FSCJ for general education classes. I enrolled in school with her, and the rest is history.

What has been one of the greatest lessons you've learned along your journey?

Delay doesn't mean denial! Keep working toward your desired goal.

What course(s) do you teach at FGC?

Nursing Foundations and Maternal, Infant, Child, Adolescent nursing (MICA).

What do you love most about teaching?

The opportunity to impart knowledge, encourage, mentor, teach, and inspire the next generation of nurses.

What message do you strive to instill in your students?

If his or her goal/aim is to obtain that degree and/or certificate, it is OBTAINABLE!

What does being an FGC faculty member mean to you?

Being a faculty member here at FGC is a blessing and a privilege. It has given me an opportunity to make a difference.

Dr. Webb is a proud graduate of Florida State College of Jacksonville where she earned an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing in 2001. She is also an alumna of the University of Phoenix where she received Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Nursing, and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Nursing Health Care Education (NHCE). Most recently, Dr. Webb earned her Doctorate in Nursing Practice degree from Grand Canyon University.

DN&HS Faculty Recognitions

Japera DENSON



Japera Denson conducted a research presentation at the National Association of African American Studies (NAAAS) 2022 Virtual National Conference on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 of her work titled: "Rising in Victory: The Battles of Black Women Faculty and Administrators in Academe and How They Overcome." The presentation addressed the experiences of Black women faculty and administrators in institutions of higher education and the barriers that impede their entrance and continuance in the leadership pipeline. Japera has also been selected to present this work at the International Conference of the Americas (Panama City, Panama) in June 2022, and at the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIM) Summit on Higher Education in September 2022.

Japera K. Denson, MBA, RHIA is a second-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling at Florida A&M University. She is an Assistant Professor and the Program Coordinator of Health Information Technology at Florida Gateway College. Her research interests include higher education administration, women's leadership, power intelligence, and organizational behavior.



Sarah White & FAMILY

Florida Gateway College's department of Nursing and Health Sciences (DN&HS) Skills Lab and Simulation Instructor Sarah White and her family recently partnered with LifeSouth Community Blood Centers' Cord Blood Donation program in order to bring awareness to the benefits of umbilical cord blood donation. Gracie White (Mrs. White's daughter), age 14, received an umbilical cord blood transplant at 10 months old as treatment for a fatal genetic disease

called MPS Type 1 - Hurler Syndrome. Thanks to the cord blood transplant, Gracie has exceeded her expected lifespan and continues to enjoy the life she might otherwise not have had. As a direct result of her daughter's experience, Mrs. White began to pursue a career in nursing and began her education here at Florida Gateway College's DN&HS. Mrs. White and her family will be featured in a social media campaign promoting umbilical cord blood donation in the coming months.



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