

# VITAL SIGNS

WVU SCHOOL OF NURSING • 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



## Dean's Message

# Mountaineers Forever



Observation is essential not only in nursing, but in higher education and in life. As the land-grant university for the

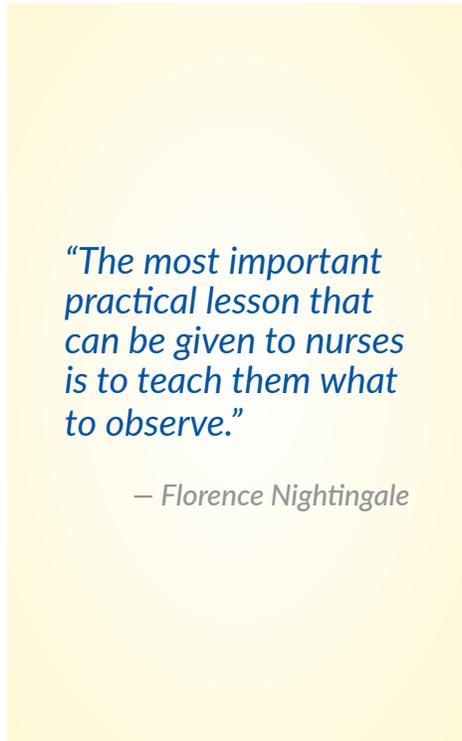
state, West Virginia University is tasked with observing and responding to the needs of the state, its residents and beyond.

We take our land-grant mission seriously at the WVU School of Nursing. We have seen a rising need for career-ready nursing graduates over the past several years, as many nurses in the U.S. reach retirement. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand has only continued to increase.

To help train the next generation of nursing leaders, we have expanded to Bridgeport in a unique partnership with WVU Medicine United Hospital Center. At this campus, students can enroll in an accelerated BS/BA to BSN program, completing their degree in 18 months. This fast-track program gives students access to state-of-the-art classrooms and skill labs just steps away from the clinical facility.

As we see the need, the WVU School of Nursing continues to seize the opportunity for growth. In addition to more campus locations, we are also exploring alternative degree programs beyond our traditional BSN, including additional BS/BA to BSN offerings and an LPN-BSN track.

Our expansion has been supported in part by Governor Jim Justice's Nursing Workforce Expansion Program and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission through two separate \$1 million



*"The most important practical lesson that can be given to nurses is to teach them what to observe."*

— Florence Nightingale

grants awarded in March. These resources have been directed toward supporting student success, enhancing recruitment and retention, and providing faculty incentives and community partnerships. We also received an additional \$40,000 for faculty enhancement. We are grateful for the support!

Along each step of our journey, we are always thankful for the support we receive from our alumni, donors and friends. You are an integral part of the WVU School of Nursing family, and we are thankful for you! *Once a Mountaineer, always a Mountaineer.*

Let's Go!

**Tara Hulsey,**  
PhD, RN, CNE, FAAN  
Dean and E. Jane Martin Endowed Professor  
WVU School of Nursing

## VITAL SIGNS

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## ON THE COVER

BSN graduate Tyler Franklin Nobles greets loved ones at the Canady Creative Arts Center in Morgantown after the commencement ceremony on May 14, 2022.



# ON THE FAST TRACK

## *New Bridgeport Campus Offers Accelerated BSN*

For Dr. Veronica Gallo, her new role as campus chair at Bridgeport seems like a natural fit.

After graduating with her ADN, Gallo landed her first nursing job at United Hospital Center (UHC). No matter where her career took her, she continued fostering the relationships she made there as a staff nurse, even teaching clinicals at UHC, in her role as instructor.

Gallo was teaching courses for the Charleston Campus when she learned about the future Bridgeport location. She immediately approached Dean Tara Hulsey about the chair position.

"I shared my years of experience, qualifications and my relationship

with the hospital and community," Gallo said. "I've lived in Harrison County since I graduated in 1997. This is my home."

Gallo's passion about the community, as well as nursing education is clear: "I want this campus to be a prospective student's first choice. Our curriculum is already tried and tested at the Morgantown Campus."

The unique School of Nursing and WVU Medicine UHC partnership offers the fast-track BS/BA to BSN nursing program, alongside state-of-the-art classrooms and skills labs just steps away from the clinical facility.

"With this program, we can train nurses faster," shared Dean Hulsey. "The hospital was already expand-



**Above:** Bridgeport Campus Chair Veronica Gallo, Dean Tara Hulseley and UHC CEO David F. Hess pose for a photo inside one of the new classrooms.

**Below:** Students have access to a state-of-the-art skills lab, just steps away from the clinical facility.



**Above:** News, event information and more will display at the Bridgeport Campus Infostation.

**Below:** One of two classrooms at the new campus.



*“I want this campus to be a prospective student’s first choice. Our curriculum is already tried and tested at the Morgantown Campus.”*

— **Dr. Veronica Gallo,**  
Bridgeport Campus Chair

ing, so the timing was perfect for us to bring the fast-track program to a setting where there was a need.”

Hulseley said as the state’s land-grant university, the WVU School of Nursing is a leader for nursing, and program decisions must be made

based on both education and work-force needs.

“We teach our nursing students to be leaders. Out of the gate with their BSN, they’re trained in evidence-based practice and leadership.”

The new space in Bridgeport is

both practical and beautiful, with natural light filling the classrooms and views of the mountains seen from the conference rooms and student lounge.

“The addition of the WVU School of Nursing to the UHC campus provides a unique opportunity for collaboration, enabling the School to produce dedicated and compassionate nurses ready to meet the evolving healthcare challenges of tomorrow,” said David F. Hess, M.D., president and CEO of UHC. “We cannot unilaterally solve nursing shortages, but together, we are uniquely positioned to meet the demands of our region and state.”

# Expressions THROUGH ART

The COVID-19 pandemic was emotionally, physically and mentally challenging, especially for nurses. To help students, faculty and staff find a healthy way to express themselves, WVU School of Nursing Clinical Education Assistant Professor Dr. Brad Phillips hosted an art project called, "What COVID-19 Means to Me."

"Nursing is so deeply rooted in the arts," Phillips said. "With patient care, there are so many different techniques, such as music therapy, pet therapy and art therapy. There are different ways for patients to express how they feel, so I thought it was a good idea to allow nurses to take part as well."

Dean Tara Hulsey funded the project, offering 30 fully stocked painting supply kits for any student, faculty or staff who wanted to participate. The artwork was displayed on the School of Nursing floor in the glass display case in front of the Dean's Suite.

While some paintings were hopeful, many portrayed the darkness experienced during the pandemic. Many participants told Phillips they found the art project a great practice in reflection. Even those who didn't participate shared their gratitude in being able to see and relate to others' perspectives.

"It was nice to be part of something a little bigger than myself, to show creativity in the context of nursing," said nursing student Daiva Daulys.

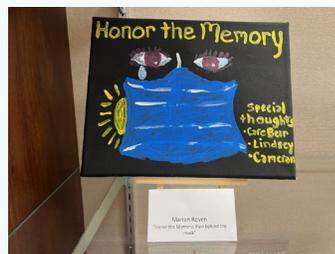
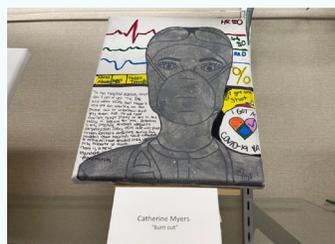
*Outside the Dean's Suite, Dr. Brad Phillips stands in front of a glass display case featuring artwork from "What COVID-19 Means to Me."*



“In clinicals, we learned about compassion fatigue. If you can’t take care of yourself first, you can’t take care of other people,” she said. “It’s important for your mental health to work through things in whatever way you need — through art, reading a book, taking a walk in nature — to make sure your needs are being met so you can better meet the needs of others.”

Phillips said he hopes to host similar art projects with different themes at least once a year.

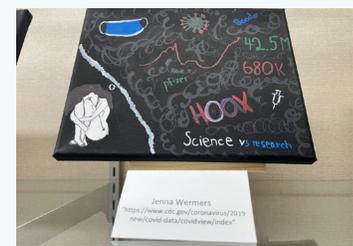
“Nursing is an art and a science,” he said. “We focus heavily on the science because nurses have to safely provide evidence-based care to their patients, but the science component is the tip of the iceberg. Everything below the surface is more of an art, such as emotional management, care and compassion.”



**Top:** Joanne Watson shows her two paintings — one to represent each of the first two years of the pandemic.

**Left:** Student Daiva Daulys illustrated in her painting how some people present a façade of being fine even when they're not.

**Other photos:** Paintings in the project ranged from the dark times to the moments of hope experienced during the pandemic.



## COVID-19: Answering the Call

As the COVID-19 pandemic gained momentum, the demands on nurses were never greater. The WVU School of Nursing answered the call — thanks to a three-point plan crafted by Dean Tara Hulsey.

The plan allowed nursing faculty to take patient assignments, junior- and senior-level nursing students to volunteer to work with hospitals and retired nurses to return to the workforce.

Hulsey, who also serves as president of the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses, vetted the plan with the Board and shared it with the West Virginia Hospital Association. The RN Board shared the plan with all nursing schools, and the Hospital Association sent it to all clinical sites.

“I believe having the plan vetted by the RN Board and Hospital Association made it more of a statewide effort, rather than focused just on WVU. There was flexibility within the plan, so nursing programs could take the suggestions and apply what worked best,” Hulsey explained.

“It provided additional nurses to assist with the hospital staffing crisis during the pandemic, and we received verbal appreciation from hospital administration.”

“When that call came, with my military background, I thought, ‘How can I not?’ Our fellow nurses are calling, of course I have to help.”

— **Sandra “Sam” Cotton**,  
Professor Emeritus



“Seeing COVID-19 firsthand, it gave me even more desire to be a nurse. The pandemic made us realize how important nurses are, along with other healthcare professionals.”

— **Ateria Walker**,  
BSN student

“We’re taught to protect ourselves and our patients. We’re taught how to wear proper PPE, to be resilient, caring and kind. That’s our job, and I feel really well prepared for that.”

— **Petra Vasale**,  
Beckley Campus graduate



## Trans Safe Zone **TRAINING**



Nursing student Kali Fischer organized a Trans Safe Zone Training, inviting members of the WVU School of Nursing and beyond to learn how to be more affirming and supportive of the transgender population, especially as healthcare providers.

Fischer, who serves as the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) representative for the Student Nurses' Association, contacted the WVU LGBTQ+ Center to request the training, which was led by Director Ellen Rodrigues.

"I was surprised at how much I learned," Fischer shared. "Something that stuck with me — I usually ask, 'What's your preferred pronoun?' But in the training, we learned to steer away from the word 'preferred.' Instead, just ask what their pronouns are because preferred makes it seem like a choice. It's very subtle, but it makes a difference."

As nurses or healthcare providers, Fischer said these are important conversations

*"... From a humanitarian perspective, there's an entire population of people not getting what they need in healthcare."*

— Nursing student  
**Kali Fischer on concern for healthcare discrimination of transgender patients**

to have, to help create safe environments for all patients, regardless of their gender identity.

"People who are trans are less likely to seek medical care because of discrimination or fear of discrimination," Fischer explained. "From a humanitarian perspective, there's an entire population of people not getting what they need in healthcare."



*Kali Fischer*

Not only did she host Trans Safe Zone Training, but Kali Fischer also led an effort to allow nursing students to use their preferred name on their identification badges.

"It made me feel empowered as a student. Being able to make a positive change and help bring this to students and faculty," she said. "It makes me feel like I can make a difference and that I'm helping these issues be seen."

Fischer, of Columbus, Ohio, serves as a student member of the School of Nursing's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. She is also the first-ever DEI representative for the Student Nurses' Association.

"[The] WVU School of Nursing was my first choice," Fischer said. "Part of my decision was the fact that I could walk around the WVU campus and see different types of people everywhere. That made me very happy."



The Class of 2022 Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) nurse anesthesia students gather behind a manikin in the WV STEPS Center.

## Nurse Anesthetist Program Celebrates First Graduates

In early 2017, Dr. Aaron Ostrowski came to the School of Nursing to build the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Nurse Anesthesia Program from the ground up.

“Dean Tara Hulse and the School of Nursing took a chance on me as an eager, yet unproven, academic nurse anesthetist,” Ostrowski said. While he had no solid administrative experience, Ostrowski said the support he received, paired with a healthy workplace culture, has allowed the program to thrive.

The program received accreditation by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs in October 2019. And now, 15 students in the first cohort are celebrating their graduation from the program this December, including Keri Adams, Kelsey Boyd, Joe Britz, Shane Brost, Megan Bryant, Kristen Cottrill, Haley Durkacz, Megan Gillespie, Jamie Hanna, Jess Hughes, Jake Key, Lauryn MacFawn, Kassidy Nutter, Kenton Schrock and Jason Wampler.

“I’ve found that the essential ingredient to a successful program

is the quality of the individuals admitted to the program,” Ostrowski said. “I’m continually amazed at their sustained effort and high level of achievement. They have been the beta testers, the pioneers and true Mountaineers to Go First on their climb up this Everest of a program.”

Both Megan Bryant, of Smoot, and Kenton Schrock, of Garrett County, Maryland, found the program a perfect fit for them. After graduation, they both plan to work at WVU Medicine J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital. While Bryant hopes to find ways to improve access to care in rural areas, Schrock aspires to work in pediatric anesthesia care.

“This knowledge is a blessing and a wonderful tool,” Bryant said. “I can’t wait to use it to help people who really need healing.” Schrock added



Nurse Anesthesia students have access to the WV STEPS (Simulation Training and Education for Patient Safety) Center, where they can practice their skills on high fidelity manikins.

that he considers the program “a life-changing opportunity” for which he is grateful.

To learn more, visit [nursing.wvu.edu/students/graduate-programs](http://nursing.wvu.edu/students/graduate-programs).

## FAITH Community Nursing



Rusty and Kimberly Hutson (center) with their children (from left) Conner, Parker, Tanner and Hannah.

### 'Meeting People Where They Are'

Expanding access to care by meeting folks where they are: That's the mission of Faith Community Nursing.

This continuing education opportunity provides training for nurses so they can provide health screenings, education and more at faith centers in their communities. The goal is to expand access to healthcare, particularly in the state's most rural and economically challenged counties.

Thanks to a \$400,000 gift from Kimberly and Rusty Hutson, Jr., the initiative will be able to go even further to reach those in need.

"We have been blessed as a family, and we are passionate about giving back to our home state that we love so much," Rusty said. "These gifts are strategic for us as a family, as we look to assist in enhancing quality healthcare for rural areas of the state."

Dr. Angel Smothers, a faculty member at the WVU School of Nursing and a Mercer County native, leads the effort to bring healthcare closer to home.

"We've built a structure of education, training and support," Smothers said. "With financial support, we can help churches get supplies, host Faith Community Nurses and continue to train them."

"Meeting people where they are is an essential component of healthcare," said Dean Tara Hulsey. "This generous gift from the Hutsons will help provide greater access to care in the areas that need it most."

As part of the School of Nursing's professional development courses, nurses can enroll in Faith Community Nursing, which provides the foundational knowledge, as well as Advanced Spiritual Care, which can advance nurses' knowledge and skill around spiritual care.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



## REACHING COMMUNITY

### Biz Morrissey

Biz Morrissey, an advanced practice nurse who took the Faith Community Nursing course a couple years after graduating, wanted to better understand how to help the community.

"In the hospital setting, I totally understood, but when it came to my faith community, where I was seeing health disparities, I didn't really know where to start," Morrissey said. "Faith Community Nursing helped me know what to do, how I can help and what are my limits."

She said the skills she learned from the course have been highly beneficial as she works as an advocate for health in her community.

"It allows me to give back to my community and be understanding of how different religions and faiths can impact someone's health."

The course not only helped her understand how to provide a positive impact in her own faith community, but it made her more aware and respectful of the beliefs of other faiths, too.

# Under the DOME

## WVU DAY at the Legislature

With the help of two WVU nursing faculty, dozens of young Mountaineers learned how to locate and hear a heartbeat on SAM, a Student Auscultation Manikin from the WV STEPS Center, during the 2022 WVU Day at the Legislature.

Kathy Atassi, an assistant professor at the Charleston Campus, and Teresa Ritchie, coordinator of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program, volunteered for the Jan. 25 event, leading heartbeat demonstrations, speaking with lawmakers and alumni, and offering information about nursing programs.



**Top:** Mountaineer mascot Colson Glover poses for a quick photo with a Student Auscultation Manikin (SAM), a device used to help students learn cardiac, lung and bowel sounds.

**Left:** Teresa Ritchie, coordinator of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program, shows a young Mountaineer how to locate SAM's heartbeat.

"It was so refreshing to see excitement on the faces of the kids who stopped by to listen to 'SAM's heart,'" Ritchie said. "Each child was given a stethoscope to listen, and when they heard the 'heartbeat,' their eyes lit up. They were so excited."

During “Nurses Day at the Capitol,” nurses across the state were invited to the capitol in Charleston to meet with legislators, attend committee meetings and get to know nursing policy leaders.

Jenna Wermers and Ateria Walker, WVU nursing students and members of the WVU Student Nurses’ Association, attended the event.

“I got to become really intimate with the process that a bill has to go through



**Above:** Jenna Wermers, right, meets with state lawmakers during Nurses Day.

## NURSES Day



**Left:** From left, SON alum Luke Velickoff, Ateria Walker, Jenna Wermers and West Virginia Nurses Association President Julie Huron.

to become a law, and I learned the importance of advocacy for nurses by nurses,” Wermers said.

Walker added, “I learned how important it is to communicate with representatives from the House and Senate to discuss important bills regarding our nursing profession and patient safety. Being able to help advocate for the nursing profession and patient safety was a wonderful experience.”

## UNDERGRAD Research Day

Nursing students Serenity McDill and Nathaniel Palmer shared their research with state lawmakers during Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol.

The event offered a glimpse of the work of undergraduate researchers at WVU and across the state. Nearly 50 presenters from WVU’s Morgantown and Beckley campuses attended.

Palmer’s presentation was “Satisfaction with Access to Health Services in West Virginia during COVID-19,” while McDill presented “Identifying Home Care Needs of Families Living with Heart Failure and Vascular Dementia.” Both Palmer and McDill are members of the Research Apprenticeship Program (RAP).



Serenity McDill



Nathaniel Palmer

## VALOR Program

Four WVU School of Nursing students on the Beckley Campus were awarded a nurse residency through the VALOR Program at the Beckley VA Medical Center.

Elijah Brown, Ted Cancel, Robert Harris and Jestin Smith were accepted into the competitive VA Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) Program, which provides opportunities for outstanding junior level BSN students who want to

provide care for those who have served our nation.

Selected students receive clinical experience with a qualified BSN RN preceptor, as well as an hourly rate or stipend. The program curriculum also helps students identify career goals and develop a professional development plan to help them reach those goals.

"We're so proud of these outstanding students for securing this educational opportunity," said Hillary Parcell, WVU School of Nursing Beckley Campus Chair. "We're also

grateful to the Beckley VA Medical Center for creating unique paths to employment for our graduates."

Upon completion of the one-year residency program, VALOR awardees will have an opportunity to join the Beckley VAMC staff if desired.

"This residency program provides opportunity for future registered nurses to experience the VA health-care environment and gain understanding and dedication to the VA mission of caring for our nation's heroes," said Dean Tara Hulsey.

# Serving America's HEROES



*Elijah Brown, Robert Harris, Jestin Smith and Ted Cancel were selected for the competitive VA Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) Program at the Beckley VA Medical Center.*



Sophomore nursing students gather for a photo at the Health Sciences Pylons before the Spring 2022 Pledge Ceremony.

## PLEDGE CEREMONY

Spring 2022

The School of Nursing formally welcomed the sophomore classes of August 2023 and December 2024 into the study of nursing March 3 during the Spring 2022 Nursing Pledge Ceremony.

"The nursing pledge is a commitment to demonstrate and respect the moral principles of the nursing profession," said Joanne Watson. "The WVU School of Nursing Pledge speaks to integrity, compassion, ethics, patient advocacy and lifelong learning."

For Madison Heflin, she plans to revisit the pledge whenever she's feeling lost in her future career as a nurse.

"I chose nursing because I wanted to make a difference in the world and the lives around me every day," Heflin said.

When new members are welcomed into the nursing community, Watson says it's a win-win, both for healthcare and humanity.

"Being a nurse isn't just a job," Watson said. "It is part of one's soul. The pledge embodies the idea that you are part of a community of like-minded givers."

To watch the ceremony, visit the WVU School of Nursing YouTube channel.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



DRIVEN TO SERVE

*Ted Cancel*

Throughout his life, Ted Cancel has been drawn to serving, as well as to the medical profession.

When he was a teenager, the Brooklyn native worked in patient transport and as an x-ray aide at a hospital. After high school, he served in the U.S. Army. He was deployed to El Paso, Texas, where he was assigned to Air Defense Artillery.

Merging his passion for healthcare and his drive to serve, Cancel says becoming a nurse who works with veterans is a dream job for him.

"I've always wanted to serve my fellow brothers and sisters in the armed forces. They signed their life away to protect us. I'm willing to give them my all because they gave their all for us."

After graduation and the completion of the VALOR Program, Cancel hopes to join the Beckley VA Medical Center full-time.

 West Virginia University

# 50+ YEARS OF Excellence



## Class of 1970 REUNION

The Class of 1970, among the first classes to graduate the WVU School of Nursing, has perhaps been the most active and cohesive set of alumni to date.

The class was organized under "The West Virginia Plan," an innovative

curriculum grounded in public health, family- and patient-centered care and critical thinking skills.

Self-described as "The Class that Lives on the Edge," their members were comprised of a variety of mid-Atlantic students. While



everyone went their separate ways after graduation, they have felt a deep bond over the years, no matter the distance.

The class has “given back” in many ways, through financial gifts, nursing care provision, nursing education, leadership, volunteering and so much more.

As all good things must come to an end, so must the gatherings for the Class of 1970. They hosted their final in-person reunion June 10-12, 2022, celebrating 50-plus years of nursing excellence.

The class members will continue to connect with one another remotely, as well as support the School of Nursing and its students.



**Opposite page:** Members of the Class of 1970 gathered in Morgantown at the Health Sciences Center to kick off a weekend of activities together during their final in-person reunion.

**Above:** Dean Tara Hulsey accepts a \$16,000 check from the Class of 1970 for the Student Emergency Fund.

**Left:** Members of the Class of 1970 donated a handcrafted wooden bench to the WVU School of Nursing as part of their 50th anniversary.

**Below:** Class members reminisced and shared laughs during their reunion in Morgantown from June 10-12.





The Student Nurses' Association and the Minorities Association of Pre-Healthcare Students organized an ethnic hair event to share experiences and educate attendees about ethnic hair care in healthcare settings.

# BE THE Change

All across the School of Nursing, efforts are being made to grow our diversity, improve equity and provide inclusive spaces.

In February, the Student Nurses' Association and the Minorities Association of Pre-Healthcare Students hosted a conversation about ethnic hair, including hair care and struggles in personal and professional life.

"The ethnic hair event allowed students from health discipline majors to come together and talk about their trials and tribulations with dealing

with ethnic hair in a professional setting, as well as ways to help care for patients' ethnic hair in a healthcare setting," shared Ateria Walker, SNA Community Outreach Representative and MAPS President.

In March, Professor Emeritus Dr. Sam Cotton moderated a panel hosted by the West Virginia Nurses Association, "RACE (Recognize, Address, Change and Educate): Strategies to be an Antiracist in Nursing."

Panelists included Dr. Ernest Grant, the first male and the first

Black male president of the American Nurses Association; and Dr. Sheldon Fields, First Vice President for the National Black Nurses Association and the inaugural Associate Dean for DEI at Penn State University School of Nursing; and Dr. Donte Newsom, a three-time WVU School of Nursing graduate.

"Being from a BIPOC community, from the LGBTQ+ community and a male in nursing, there are several ways I'm considered a minority," Newsom said. "I don't want myself or anybody like me to be in a position that they're treated less than. Everybody should have a level playing field — an opportunity to serve in a profession they chose and a career they love without any experiences that take away from that or drive them out of it."



Dr. Donte Newsom is a member of the West Virginia Nurses Association's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and a board member of Fairness West Virginia.



Dr. Sandra "Sam" Cotton served as a member of both the WVNA and the WVU School of Nursing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committees.



*Working in pairs, WVU School of Nursing and School of Medicine occupational therapy students assisted one another with functional mobility for their patients, including transfers, bed mobility, ambulation with assistive devices and proper body mechanics.*

## LEARNING

### Together

As new students begin working in the field, they are oftentimes hesitant to collaborate with their colleagues, as they don't want to interfere with patient care. But working together can be an asset — both for co-workers and their patients.

In an interdisciplinary partnership, nursing students worked alongside WVU School of Medicine occupational therapy students to learn from one another and to hone their skillsets in the WV STEPS Center. Improving communication to enhance patient safety is one of the main goals.

“As occupational therapists and nurses, our focus is on improving someone's health and independence,” said Caitlyn Shaffer, an occupational therapy student. “While working with the nursing students, my eyes were opened tremendously; I noticed how much we can learn from one another to achieve our common goal.”

The partnership was spearheaded by Director of Simulation Christy Barnhart and implemented by Diana Davis, an associate professor in occupational therapy; Tonya Thompson, a clinical education associate professor with the School of Nursing; and Amanda Acord-Vira, an associate professor of occupational therapy.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

EMPATHY IN LEADERSHIP

*Katrina Roxas*

Helping her peers was important to Katrina Roxas during her time at the Keyser Campus. As part of the Honors Experiential and Community Engaged Learning (EXCEL) Program, Roxas chose a project close to her heart — “Homesickness on a College Campus.”

“I experienced extreme homesickness when I moved to the U.S. from the Philippines. I had to move again for college, but this time, I decided to become a resident assistant to help other students adjust to the big change in their lives.”

Her project aimed to spread awareness, as well as to provide healthy coping mechanisms and to share available resources. Notably, Roxas was the first student on the Keyser Campus to complete Honors EXCEL.

“Spreading awareness about homesickness will help students to speak up and I want them to realize that it is a normal feeling that everyone else experiences and they are not alone.”

 West Virginia University

# SPREADING Smiles



No matter the occasion or the campus, WVU nursing students are always spreading smiles.

With the combined efforts of Morgantown and Beckley students, more than 500 Valentine's cards were delivered to WVU Medicine Children's patients and nursing home residents.

"It just makes me happy, and I know it will make others happy, too," said Haleigh Short.

For Easter, the Student Nurses' Association teamed up with A Moment of Magic to fill eggs with goodies for WVU Medicine Children's.

Keyser Campus students helped support a community service project by crocheting caps for patients at Potomac Valley Hospital's Cancer Center.

The SNA hosted a Family Feud event, which raised \$1,900 for the Multidisciplinary UnSheltered Homeless Relief Outreach Of Morgantown (MUSHROOM).

**Above:** The Family Feud FUNdraiser was a huge success, welcoming more than 150 attendees and raising \$1,900 for homeless outreach efforts.

**Below:** The professors chose "The Geriatrics" and "The Funny Pharm" for their team names and dressed the part for the laughter-filled evening.





Morgantown Fast-Track nursing students and the Student Nurses' Associations at Beckley and Morgantown created more than 500 Valentine's cards for Children's Hospital patients and nursing home residents.

"The principles of caring and compassion that we share as nurses (and future nurses) spreads far beyond the hospital or clinic setting," said organizer Andrew Johnson. "It spreads out to our entire community, to wherever someone in need can be found."



Hannah Jack, left, and Sierra Arbaugh, right, fill Easter eggs for patients.



Keyser Campus students crocheted caps for cancer patients.

# Congratulations, CLASS OF 2022

During a series of ceremonies in May across the Beckley, Keyser and Morgantown campuses, the WVU School of Nursing celebrated its graduating Class of 2022.

During the Morgantown event, graduates received 135 Bachelor's of Science in Nursing; 36 Master's of Science in Nursing; 4 post-Master's certificates; one Doctor of Nursing Practice; and one Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing.

Dean Tara Hulsey addressed the graduates, congratulating them and tasking them with leadership on the road ahead.

"The values of our school of nursing are Integrity, Excellence and Inclusiveness. I challenge you to live these values throughout your career," she said.

Graduate Kasey Lobban, who accepted a job at WVU Medicine

Children's Hospital, said she feels well prepared for the next chapter.

"I have made so many relationships

with professors, clinical instructors and nurses that will help me succeed in my future endeavors as a nurse."



Beckley Campus graduates pose for a photo prior to their May 7, 2022, ceremony at the Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center.

A graduate tosses her cap after the May 14, 2022 commencement ceremony at the Canady Creative Arts Center in Morgantown.

**From top:** April Shapiro, Keyser campus chair, pins BSN nursing graduates at their May 7, 2022, ceremony at the Church-McKee Arts Center.



**Above:** Keyser Campus nursing graduates pose for a group photo before their May 7, 2022, ceremony.

**Left and below:** Beckley Campus graduates are all smiles during their May 7, 2022, ceremony at the Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center.



**Below, left:** Graduates cheer after turning their tassels during the Morgantown commencement ceremony.

**Below, right:** Joanne Watson, BSN program director, greets an emotional graduate as she receives her diploma.





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# BE PREPARED

Creating a long-range plan is the first step toward securing your future. A good estate plan sets goals and makes use of tools, ensuring the people and causes you care about most – including the **WVU School of Nursing** – are taken care of after your lifetime.

Make plans now to include the WVU School of Nursing in your estate plans. Contact Tiffany Samuels, Director of Development, at [TSamuels@wvuf.org](mailto:TSamuels@wvuf.org) or 304-293-2554.

