



Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

2021–2022 Annual Report





MISSION

The College provides nursing education programs at the undergraduate and the graduate level. The upper division baccalaureate program prepares men and women for the practice of professional nursing.

This program builds upon and incorporates knowledge from the liberal arts and sciences. The graduate program builds upon prior nursing knowledge and experiences and prepares the nurse for advanced roles in nursing.

The College offers opportunities for the personal and professional development of the student. The primary commitment of the College is to undergraduate and graduate nursing education.

The College encourages the participation of the faculty and students in scholarly activities that contribute to learning, nursing, and health care.

The College serves the community by providing competent entry level and advanced practitioners responsive to the changing health needs of society and the health care system.

The College serves the community through participation in health-related activities and organizations.

VALUES

I. Personal & Professional Development

Learning is a lifelong, interactive process in which critical thinking and intellectual inquiry skills are developed and a change of behavior, attitude or thought patterns occur.

Caring develops helping relationships influenced by cultural and spiritual values and promotes the growth and self-actualization of the patient, nurse, student, and employee.

Leadership is facilitating action by developing people to achieve and maintain change.

Personal worth & dignity recognizes the unique value of each person as an individual, regardless of race, color, age, gender, ethnic background, or religion.

II. Service

Integrity believes in Judeo-Christian tenets, which permeate the curriculum and promote the ethical values of human dignity, justice, service, and respect for life.

Responsibility is the obligation to accomplish a task or assignment.

Accountability is defined as the act of accepting ownership for one's responsibilities and the results or the lack of results, without blame and rationalizations.

III. Quality

Excellence is the commitment to quality nursing education programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Agility is the commitment to being future focused and forward thinking in planning and delivering nursing education programs.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

It is my pleasure to serve as chair of the Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing Board. The College Board's primary concern is the general well-being of the College. We have responsibility for oversight of the policies needed to accomplish the College's mission and goals. Five Board Committees actively work to ensure education quality, ensure adequate resource availability, and provide long-range strategic planning and vision for the College of Nursing.

The College Board celebrates the recent Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education 10-year re-accreditation of the College of Nursing and applauds the faculty, staff, and leadership team for their efforts in accomplishing this! Re-accreditation activities are daunting, and the Board thanks everyone involved. Other recent accomplishments include the roll-out of laptop computers for faculty, the renovation of the White School auditorium into a smart classroom, the development of a separate college IT network for students, the implementation of a faculty Research Residency program, and the development of a comprehensive recruitment plan. Opportunities currently under development or being explored include a major curriculum revision in preparation for upcoming changes to both the NCLEX-RN exam and the AACN Essentials, and the development of a 12-month accelerated BSN program (from BA/BS to BSN).

The College Board looks forward to working with and supporting the faculty, staff, and the leadership team in meeting the established goals for the College of Nursing!

Margaret A. Swanson, PhD

Margaret A. Swanson, PhD
Board Chair

VISION

While representing a standard of excellence, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing will obtain local, regional, and national recognition by providing the highest quality undergraduate and graduate nursing education programs, as well as the best practicum experiences. This will in turn prepare competent, caring nurses who deliver the highest quality care, education, and leadership.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I am really excited to share with you the many accomplishments of Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing this past academic year! This year has been full of transitions and successes!

During the pandemic, we quickly moved to online learning as much as we possibly could at the College. Of course, the graduate program was already adept at online learning, but the undergraduate program had many challenges as they adapted to a new format in learning. Overall, the faculty and staff continued to provide excellent learning experiences, both clinical and classroom, overcoming the challenges presented by the pandemic. During this past academic year we moved steadily forward to getting back together again! And it has been so wonderful to being the same room together for meetings and classroom activity. Additionally, all of the adjustments that we made during the pandemic have proved to be valuable and are very applicable to the present time.

One major accomplishment was the very positive Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accreditation visit that we had in the beginning of the 2021-22 academic year. In September, CCNE visitors were on site to assess our compliance with the Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral Essentials, standards in upper division nursing education. The findings of this assessment were very positive, resulting in a 10-year accreditation in all of our programs! Of course, we will need to continue to evaluate, update, and reassess all of our programming with the intent of upholding our excellent educational heritage.

Additionally, we are progressing in year two of the Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing's first strategic plan! We have faculty and staff working on advancing five pillar areas: Catholic Identity, Grow Enrollment, Student Experience, Faculty Excellence and Professional Success. These pillar topics will continue to develop stronger faculty and staff programs, academic excellence, and Mission-centered nursing education and practice. The team is adjusting to long-term planning, data collection and strategic thinking! It is all good!

Finally, we have operationalized a Research Residency to further develop faculty scholarship at our college. Many faculty are excited to be a part of this group and are thinking of scholarly projects that will enhance nursing as well as their careers. We have a total of 13 faculty who are actively engaged in this program.

In all, it has been a wonderful year at Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing! We are excited for the year to come. Please review our Annual Report and feel the excitement!

Sincerely,

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 had another successful year. U.S. News & World Report ranked our MSN program as one of the top 100 online MSN programs in the country. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), our nursing program accreditors, virtually "visited" the graduate and undergraduate programs in September and were very complimentary. We should get the final letter from the accreditors very soon.

Our total enrollment consists of 123 graduate students; 19 of whom are earning doctoral degrees, and 104 are MSN and postgraduate certificate students. We have noticed a gentle trend upward in enrollment of BSN-DNP students. We are hopeful for our future enrollment related to the College's new director of admissions and registrar, Austin Blair, and the designated nurse recruiter, Anne Schmitt. Both people have dynamic personalities and are glad to be able to share their knowledge and enthusiasm about our programs face to face.

With greater vaccination rates and a better understanding of the COVID-19 virus, we were able to maintain our clinical sites for student learning during 2021. The emergency departments and inpatient units of the hospitals were very busy, and the number of patients seen in private offices bounced back. Students were able to care for patients with psychiatric-mental health issues in person and through telehealth.

We are beginning the journey to transform the curriculum to meet the new American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials: Core Competencies for Nursing Education. The new document has Essential Considerations for Entry-level Professional Education (BSN) and for Advanced-level Nursing Education (Graduate Education). Achieving the Essentials will be based on competencies. The AACN expects the change to take three or more years.

Serving as the dean of the Graduate Program has been a great honor and privilege. The College is actively recruiting my replacement, as I will be on "permanent vacation" at the end of this academic year. This new leader will be charged with seeking ways to enhance learning for our students and making the programs even better. We are confident we can find a leader who will create a strong future for the Graduate Program.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Mitchell, PhD, RN, CNE



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 note 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, education abroad, 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 NCLEX RN licensure exam post-graduation. An NCLEX RN review course is embedded into the last semester of the baccalaureate curriculum. This ensures that all students participate in a review course and are well-prepared to take the licensure exam.

I would be remiss not to spend some time discussing the COVID-19 pandemic and enrollment opportunities and how it has impacted our College and students. The pandemic compelled the undergraduate faculty and students to continue to shift some of our educational offerings to a virtual format. We have been fortunate in our ability to shift a large portion of our educational offerings back to the in-seat format.

We continue to utilize technologies to enhance virtual education such as Respondus, Proctor U and Adobe Connect. We're proud of the remarkable efforts displayed by our students, faculty and staff during such a stressful time. Despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our students continue to successfully learn and progress through the BSN curriculum.

Enrollment opportunities continue to be a challenge at the College and across the nation. We are working tirelessly to showcase the wonderful attributes of the College and OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center as well as the profession of nursing to recruit qualified students for our programs.

Student numbers are monitored closely each semester. The majority of our graduates, approximately 80%, choose to work at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center. OSF Saint Francis is the level 1 trauma center in the region and includes OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois. Our students benefit from a diverse patient population and expert clinical faculty, and this continues to be a deciding factor in our students choosing Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing.

We have been blessed this year with the addition of new faculty members. Rebecca Culp MSN, RN, Katie Fosburgh MSN, RN, and Lisa Pitzer MSN, RN, joined the faculty as full-time employees. These highly qualified faculty will foster learning and growth in our BSN students in the classroom and clinical arenas.

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, staff and students.

Respectfully,

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

TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP



Sandie Soldwisch retires

OSF HealthCare and our colleges of nursing would like to honor and thank a transformative leader who made a significant impact on our Ministry and the education of many nursing students.

Sandie Soldwisch, PhD, ANP-BC, RN, retired on December 31, 2021, after serving as president.

Dr. Soldwisch joined Saint Anthony College of Nursing (SACN) in August 2015. In the fall of 2017, Dr. Soldwisch also assumed the new role of president of the OSF College of the Health Sciences, overseeing SACN as well as Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing in Peoria. This role provided Dr. Soldwisch the opportunity to partner with senior OSF leaders to develop the concept of the College of Health Sciences. In July 2019, Dr. Soldwisch also became president of the Peoria college, when Dr. Patricia Stockert retired. Dr. Soldwisch served OSF in multiple and significant capacities during her tenure with the organization.

During Dr. Soldwisch's service at SACN, she led the organization through many important initiatives. One of her notable achievements at SACN was leading the faculty through the development of a systematic evaluation plan. The plan provided a template for identifying key outcomes as well as a structure for evaluation. As part of this process, student learning outcomes were formalized. Additionally, Dr. Soldwisch led the COVID-19 lockdown for the colleges in March 2020, including a rapid move to online teaching, meetings, and operations. She secured federal COVID-19 funds for both colleges to assist during that time. After the lockdown, Dr. Soldwisch developed and led a "Back to Campus Post-Covid Operation Plan" in May 2020.



Shannon Lizer steps in as interim president

At OSF HealthCare, we believe Mission Partners and students are called to be here. Shannon K. Lizer PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP, was planning to retire from her position as dean of graduate affairs for Saint Anthony College of Nursing in May 2022 to spend a bit of time teaching. But, when the colleges of nursing needed an interim president, she felt called to step in. "These are great teams of awesome faculty and staff working together very well," she said.

Dr. Lizer brings strong academic experience to the role of interim president. She began working in academia at UIC College of Medicine in 1996, moving to the RMED (Rural Medical Education Program) in 1997, and co-facilitating a virtual neurology course for RMED students for several years. In 2002, she also began to teach at UIC College of Nursing. She served as Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health at Highland Community College prior to joining Saint Anthony College of Nursing, Rockford as Dean, Graduate Affairs and Research in 2010. She earned her ADN from Rock Valley College, a BSN completion from NIU, a MSN in Nursing Service Administration from UIC, and a post MSN in family nurse practitioner (FNP) and PhD from Rush University. She practiced as an FNP, providing health care to the underserved and to veterans until January 2022. She was inducted as a Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners in 2016. She has multiple publications and presentations, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

One of her main goals has been to align Saint Anthony College of Nursing and Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing, so she splits her time between Peoria and Rockford. She believes it's important to be present at both colleges, meeting with faculty and staff regularly to keep communication open and processes streamlined.

TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP



Dr. Kim Mitchell retires

Dr. Kim Mitchell retired as the college's second dean of the Graduate Program at the end of May 2022 after 22 years of dedicated service to Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing. She served seven years as dean.

Dr. Mitchell became a faculty member in 2000 and taught in both the Baccalaureate and the Master's programs. Her contributions included education for the many nursing students who entered the workforce and provided quality patient care. As she advanced her education, she took on increasing responsibility and leadership roles befitting of her education, knowledge, skills and talents.

Dr. Mitchell earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Nursing from Indiana University in 2009 and Master of Science in Nursing in 1990 from University of Illinois Chicago. During her tenure as dean of the Graduate Program, she started the BSN-DNP program as well as the Post Graduate Adult Gerontology and Post Graduate Psych Mental Health certificate programs. We wish Dr. Mitchell many blessings in her retirement.



Dr. Carole Eatock becomes dean of the Graduate Program

Dr. Carole Eatock, DNP, APRN-FPA, NP-C, joined Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing as dean of the Graduate Program in July 2022.

Carole started her career in the medical field as a respiratory therapist in 1997. She went on to receive her diploma from Methodist School of Nursing in 2001, Family Nurse Practitioner, Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Illinois in 2010, and Doctor of Nursing Practice from University of Illinois in 2016. Her nursing career began in the cardiac intensive care and led to outpatient family practice, where she is currently

seeing patients in a rural clinic. She enjoys taking care of patients, focusing on health and treating chronic disease. She is passionate about leading, teaching and mentoring the next generation of health care providers.

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 CON.
- 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.

DEDICATED EDUCATION UNIT GIVES STUDENTS REAL-WORLD LEARNING

“I love taking care of people, and the Dedicated Education Unit program helped me to achieve better skills to successfully do that,” said Kess Walton, a nursing student at Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing.

In today’s fast-paced health care and education communities, student transition into a professional nursing role is exciting and challenging.

In alignment with the OSF HealthCare Mission – to serve with the greatest care and love – Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing set out to make real change in clinical practice with the goal of transforming the transition into the nursing profession.

An innovative solution

As senior nursing students, the final stretch before graduation is an important step before entering the field as a bedside nurse. Before a final comprehensive exam and the nursing licensure exam, students must complete clinical hours in a care setting. The Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) was created to take advantage of that time before graduation to immerse students in a real-life clinical experience.

Students who apply and are accepted into the innovative program work a full semester in an acute care setting on one unit. They get clinical hours while working one on one with a DEU instructor. It provides a unique learning, teaching and working environment for students and instructors alike.

From their first day in the DEU, students are thrown into real-life patient care. Students work 12-hour shifts and do all that they will do when they graduate and enter the field.

Supported along the way

Students were paired with an instructor, an experienced registered nurse who wanted to help guide them through their entire clinical experience – from the first day of the semester to the last. These instructors applied to mentor one student nurse for the semester. Each shift the student nurse worked, the instructing nurse was there to walk them through the full spectrum of patient care.

“Having a nurse mentor created a trust that encouraged questions and fostered a learning environment,” said Kelsey Williams, a recent nursing graduate.



KELSEY WILLIAMS (LEFT), RECENT NURSING GRADUATE

“*Having a nurse mentor created a trust that encouraged questions and fostered a learning environment.*”
-Kelsey Williams, recent nursing graduate

For many, it’s a mutually beneficial experience. The DEU instructors enjoy an opportunity to work with the next generation of nurses who may become their colleagues in the future. The students, of course, reap many benefits as they ease into their role as a future bedside nurse. At the heart of it all is a commitment to providing excellent patient care.

A day in the life

During their shifts, students started their day in the unit by going over the daily report, meeting patients, looking at labs and medications, determining which patients were being discharged, passing medications and completing morning assessments. And by that point, it was only about 10 a.m.

The rest of the day included interdisciplinary rounds, working on discharges and another round of assessments and vitals. That doesn’t include answering patient call lights that popped up throughout the day and all the charting to do during a shift. Through it all, the students have the constant support of their DEU instructor.

‘My DEU experience was amazing!’

Here’s what some of the students had to say about their experience:

- I never thought I’d be able to take on a team of four patients, but the DEU taught me how. I built a trusting relationship with my nurse instructor. This allowed me to have realistic expectations during each clinical rotation and rely on some kind of stability.
- I was able to gain independence as a nursing student. I grew in my confidence with nursing skills and time management. I don’t think I would’ve gained this much confidence without the DEU program.
- I was able to provide care safely and understand how bedside nursing truly works in the real world. My nurse instructor was knowledgeable about hospital policy and made sure to help me find the answers if she did not know. I gained a lot of confidence by having a mentor that was consistent week to week.
- My DEU experience was amazing! I would say that it was one of the most valuable experiences I have ever had. It helped me to grow as a nurse and as person.
- I got to watch and be a part of communication through all levels – communication nurse-to-nurse, nurse-to-doctor, nurse-to-tech, nurse-to-patient, and nurse-to-patient family, along with other health care workers who take care of patients. That was one thing I had never really witnessed or been a part of on the normal clinicals.

Instructing nurses

It’s not just the students benefitting from the DEU, either. The instructing nurses get to have real hands-on experience in nursing education, something that many of them are interested in doing more formally in the future.

The instructors and faculty involved in the DEU noticed how big of a difference the DEU made for the students.

What instructors and faculty had to say

- Student nurses have demonstrated considerable growth during their time in the DEU program. Focused areas of development include: time management, prioritization, critical thinking and communication. I hope that my instruction and guidance has improved their overall confidence in their practice.
- The best part of my experience as a DEU educator was having my students tell me that they felt that they were better prepared for their orientation after completing the program. I felt that I was able to provide a positive experience, and I hope that future students are able to benefit from this program.
- I love that I’m able to work one-on-one with each student. I feel it is a better experience than when we just get groups of nursing students. They feel more like new RN orientees than just students.
- Familiarity of having the same students each week for a whole semester, watching the students build confidence with patient care and the repetition of skills and tasks made my involvement in the DEU worth it.
- Every clinical day, I round with the student and DEU instructor to discuss their patient assignments. The rounding session helps me to understand what experiences the students are receiving while on clinical. The rounding session also allows me the opportunity to perform Socratic questioning to evaluate if the student understands the big picture.

The DEU’s inaugural year was a success and will make for a more hopeful outlook on the future of the nursing profession. It’s clear that the students who spent their semester doing their clinical hours in the DEU felt confident as they graduated. They were well-equipped to handle the unexpected, make a smooth transition from student life to nursing life and are ready to serve at the patient bedside with the greatest care and love.

SISTER M. LUDGERA AWARDS

Fall Recipient: Brad Bock, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, FNP-C



Brad Bock, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, FNP-C, was surprised but excited to win the fall Sister M. Ludgera Award.

“It was a pretty memorable experience and nice to be rewarded like that,” he said.

Brad’s nominators called him an outstanding student and “a leader (and

positive influence for his peers.” Brad said he’s always strived to be a person others can look to for guidance and support, and he appreciates the mentors, instructors and preceptors he’s had along the way “pushing me to be the best that I could be.”

As a testament to his professionalism, Brad had three job offers within OSF HealthCare before graduating from the family nurse practitioner program in December.

“If I had any note for students, it would be to know that clinicals matter,” he said. “I was in clinicals at OSF Medical Group – Primary Care in Chillicothe, and the provider reached out to me and offered me a job there because he saw my potential,” he said.

He also received job offers from OSF PromptCare and another primary care site, but ultimately chose to work at the Chillicothe clinic, where he enjoys establishing relationships with patients.

“I see the whole life span, which is what our education prepared us for. It’s been a really good experience,” Brad said.

In the future, the Hanna City native said he’d like to be a preceptor and maybe teach eventually. He also is considering obtaining his Doctor of Nursing Practice one day.

“I love that nursing offers so many opportunities and possibilities as a career,” he said.

Spring Recipient: Freedom Andal, MSN, AG-ACNP, CCRN



Freedom Andal, MSN, AG-ACNP, CCRN, was both surprised and humbled to win the spring Sister M. Ludgera Award.

“To think that there are a lot of excellent students in my peers and to be recognized in the name of Sister Ludgera was really pretty humbling and reassuring of what it means to be a good student,” he said.

Freedom’s nomination for the award described him as a leader, noting, “He communicates well with everyone and always volunteers to help classmates in need.” Freedom said he learned as a young man that helping others brings him joy. “It feels good to bring the best version out in other people,” he said.

A Chicago native, Freedom originally was as a pre-law major but then realized that might not be his calling. “I thought nursing would provide me an avenue to directly helping people,” he said. “Also, nursing has so many advancements you can go through and a lot of room to grow.”

Freedom graduated from Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing in May with his adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioner degree. He is a charge nurse in the adult cardiac ICU, where he has worked for the past 10 years, but will transition soon to being an adult hospitalist at OSF HealthCare Illinois Neurological Institute.

Freedom continues helping new hires as they transition from students to working nurses. “It’s kind of a way to refuel your work enjoyment and reinvigorate the way you look at your job,” he said.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kelsey Williams, BSN



Although she had never stepped foot in a hospital before attending college, Kelsey Williams, BSN, became a nurse because she felt a sense of purpose in caring for others.

“What really convinced me this is what I wanted to do was how many

opportunities there are in nursing and just the vastness of the field. You can become an advanced nurse, you can work in an office or at the bedside. I still don’t even know about all of the opportunities that are available in the field. That’s probably the biggest thing that drew me to nursing and has kept me motivated,” Kelsey said.

Since earning her bachelor’s degree from Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing in May, Kelsey has been working as a registered nurse in the surgical ICU at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center. She had previously worked there as a CNA.

“It’s really exciting,” Kelsey said of her new job. “I like the challenge and the learning opportunities, and it gives me a chance to practice my skills as a nurse.”

Kelsey chose to attend the college in part so she could save money by living at home in Washington and also because of the hospital’s stellar reputation. “OSF Peoria is a known hospital nationwide. I had never even been there, but it already held value in my head,” she said.

Starting at the college during the pandemic was challenging, but Kelsey took that opportunity to focus on her grades, which led to her receiving a scholarship. Asked what she would tell future students about the program, Kelsey said, “It’s challenging, but the professors are very caring and really do want you to succeed and to prepare you for that hard transition into nursing after you graduate.”

“The DEU program put me at the bedside for 12-hour shifts once a week with an RN at the hospital, which allowed me the independence I needed to help give me confidence in my ability to do this. They gave me the support I needed in the moment as a student, and I feel that really prepared me for real-world nursing.”

She credits a new program she participated in at the college called the Designated Education Unit with helping to build her confidence after the pandemic had limited in-person clinicals for part of her schooling.

“The DEU program put me at the bedside for 12-hour shifts once a week with an RN at the hospital, which allowed me the independence I needed to help give me confidence in my ability to do this. They gave me the support I needed in the moment as a student, and I feel that really prepared me for real-world nursing,” she said.

Kelsey said she’d love to turn the tables and help teach nursing students and new nurses someday.

“I would love to teach or be a preceptor and to be patient with them and not lose sense of that feeling I had when I was a student and a new graduate,” she said.

During her off hours, Kelsey enjoys spending time with her parents and nine siblings, especially doing outdoor activities such as hiking and swimming.



Sister M. Ludgera

The 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.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

C.J. Wright-Boon, MSN



As coordinator of the Academic Development Center at the Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing, C.J. Wright-Boon, MSN, enjoys seeing that “aha moment” when students begin to grasp a concept or master a skill.

“I love it when they stop in with that little grin to tell me they passed,” she said.

C.J., who grew up on a farm near Trivoli, joined the center in 2019. She works one on one with students to help them be academically successful.

“We take a holistic approach to what’s going on with the students and help them navigate the real world of adulthood while they are going to school,” she said.

Some students need help learning how to study, while others need help with testing skills.

“It’s a very individualized approach,” she said, noting that she averages 20 to 30 appointments a week.

Usage of the center is increasing, which makes C.J. proud.

“We’re doing a better job of identifying at-risk students and asking them to come get help. We’re having positive student outcomes, and I’ve heard some say it has made a difference in their lives” she said.

While she knew from an early age that she wanted to do something in health care, C.J. is the first in her family to

become a nurse. After earning her BSN from Bradley University in 1996, she began her nursing career at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center as a staff nurse in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit. She later transitioned to the Pediatric ICU, where she developed a passion for teaching.

“I liked to educate the parents, and I liked to precept our new staff,” she said.

After earning her MSN from the college in 2008, she took a position in the Nursing Resource Center, teaching skills in a practice lab setting.

“We earned a grant where we were measuring outcomes in students who had half simulation and half traditional clinical training versus those who had purely traditional clinical. I ran the simulation part of that clinical experience, so I got to write a bunch of scenarios and use my creative juices. I really liked that experience,” she said.

C.J. sees the incorporation of simulation as one of the best changes she’s seen in nursing education.

“It gives students opportunities to see things that are high risk and the ability to practice their skills on something that isn’t going to hurt or be damaged if they make a mistake, so they can learn from those mistakes,” she said.

In her free time, C.J. is active in her church, loves gardening and baking and enjoys spending time with her two grown children. She also recently took up golf.

“I like to be challenged by something new,” she said.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS



Camp Hope in a box

Camp Hope is a five-day overnight camp for children with cancer or a blood disorder and their siblings presented through the Dax Foundation and Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing.

After holding the camp virtually in 2020 and 2021, the format became “camp in a box” in 2022. College faculty members Alissa Watkins, MSN, RN, and Jordan Herring, MSN, RN, collaborated with oncology/hematology medical staff and nursing students to create activities and videos.

Campers were assigned a “cabin” and given a box with everything they and their siblings needed to follow along. Each group completed a scavenger hunt, craft and baking project. Campers had fun, learned positive coping and life skills and cultivated relationships with others enduring the journey of chronic illness.



Camp GranADA back in person

In summer 2022, campers, staff and nursing students returned to Camp GranADA in person after two years of virtual-only camp.

The American Diabetes Association camp is for children with Type 1 diabetes. Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing students, under the guidance of faculty member Megan Frye, MSN, RN, support the camp in collaboration with doctors, medical students, nurses, dietitians and dietetic interns. Campers tried rock climbing, archery, arts and crafts, hayrack rides and swimming.

With supervision, nursing students administered the campers’ medications and insulin, read pumps and more. Food was monitored by dietetic interns. Campers were encouraged to give themselves insulin injections and manage their pump site changes under the supervision of nursing students. Nursing students helped campers learn to recognize high or low blood sugar, make good food choices and exercise.

CULTURAL IMMERSION



Helping individuals experiencing homelessness in Hawaii

Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing students have the opportunity to study global health issues through a yearly Cultural Immersion course. In summer 2022, Kate Bailey, RN, MSN, accompanied eight nursing students to Oahu, Hawaii, to provide direct patient care to those experiencing homelessness on the island. Oahu has the second-highest homelessness rate in the United States.

The College of Nursing partnered with the Institute for Human Services to provide medical care and aid to the homeless population. Students spent time on the streets providing medical care, emergency aid and harm reduction education. Students also visited five different medical respite homes and provided medical assessments and created easy-to-read, one-page handouts on basic care and hygiene that the IHS can continue to use with clients.

Many of the students gained better insight into the issues that arise from homelessness. They hope to bring those insights back to the Midwest to aid those experiencing homelessness here.



LIGHTS OUT, MISSION ON



It was all hands on deck when a transformer blew in the middle of a frigid February night at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center. Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing leaders awoke to calls from students at about 2 a.m. The heat and lights were out in the dorms and a portion of the medical center.

Students and leaders scrambled to make accommodations. Knowing a lot of help was going to be needed at the medical center, students who were able to volunteer headed to the medical center in the middle of the night. Lit only by faint emergency lighting, students lent whatever aid they could to Mission Partners and patients until the light of morning broke and dayshift nurses came in to start their day. Some of the student volunteers even stuck around to start their regularly scheduled 6 a.m. clinicals. Leaders praised the students for stepping up to help without missing a beat.

It took a few weeks to fully get things back in ship shape with the transformer, but the Mission of OSF HealthCare was on full display throughout those few weeks. From the college staff and faculty to the students to the Environmental Services Mission Partners who helped after a burst pipe sent water throughout the dorms, everyone stepped up to volunteer their time to others.

SERVING THOSE WITHOUT SHELTER



Many nurses go into the field because of their desire to serve others. That's especially true for the Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing students who participated in a day of service at a camp for those experiencing homelessness. The nursing students stepped out of the clinics to serve some of the community's most vulnerable by picking up trash in an encampment where many people experiencing homelessness have gathered. In partnership with JOLT Harm Reduction and Lula Not-For-Profit, a class of about 60 students and six faculty members helped clean up three Peoria camps.

"It's definitely an adventure climbing through the woods and picking up trash," Taylor Lawson, a graduating student, said. "It's hard to believe there are people out here who live in these conditions."

The outreach also helps clear up stigmas among the homeless population and health care.

"As we start our careers, this helps us treat people experiencing homelessness as we would every other patient and better understand the services they need," Knight said.

A PLACE AT THE TOP

Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing was selected as one of the top 100 online Master of Science in nursing degree programs in the country by U.S. News & World Report for 2022. The College of Nursing was recognized for its impressive faculty credentials, quality student engagement, innovative technology and outstanding student achievement. A master's degree in nursing opens doors to a number of opportunities for more advanced roles in administration and leadership. This recognition for the College of Nursing is well-deserved as students, faculty and administration work hard each day to create a stronger future for health care.

A NEW ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dana McVicker, RN, MSN, was promoted to Assistant Professor at Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing in spring 2022. Dana has been a nurse at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center throughout her 16 year nursing career. She graduated from Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing with her Bachelor of Science in nursing degree in 2006 and a Master of Science in nursing in 2018. Dana was the clinical educator on 5 Gerlach for three years at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center. She has taught at the College of Nursing since 2015 in the undergraduate program. Her investment in her students and their learning is evident in every aspect of her work. Dana is the Epic coordinator for the undergraduate program and precepts graduate nursing students from other programs. She has diverse research interests and is currently focused on reviewing onboarding of new nurses. Congratulations to Dana McVicker for this accomplishment!

RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS



A team led and mentored by Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing Professor Christina Garcia, PhD, RN, NE-BC, received an Outstanding Poster award at the 2021 conference of the Academy of Oncology Nurse and Patient Navigators for their project titled: "HCPOA Experiences with Nurse Navigator-led Advance Care Planning."

Garcia's team included Catherine Bailey, RN, BSN; Megan Rappleyea, RN, MSN, OCN, CNE; and Tenille Oderwald, MSN, RN, CN-BN.

"We also just found out that our paper was accepted for publication in the Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship. So we're pretty excited," Garcia said.

Bailey, Rappleyea and Oderwald, who have all worked as nurse navigators, initiated the qualitative descriptive study after observing that patients with lung cancer often approach "the end of their lives without having discussed their wishes with their families, resulting in increased distress for both patients and their loved ones," according to the project abstract.

"Since the nurse navigator has a really close relationship with the patient, having them take on the role of initiating advance care planning early on so the patient has all the information up front helps the patient feel more comfortable discussing their wishes as they go through the disease process and alleviates some of that distress later on," Garcia said. "I think from the data we collected, it was very well accepted."

Bailey presented the project at the AONN conference, which was held virtually last year due to the pandemic.

"We were pretty excited to win the award," said Garcia, who's been teaching at the college since 2003.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIALS

SCHOLARSHIPS

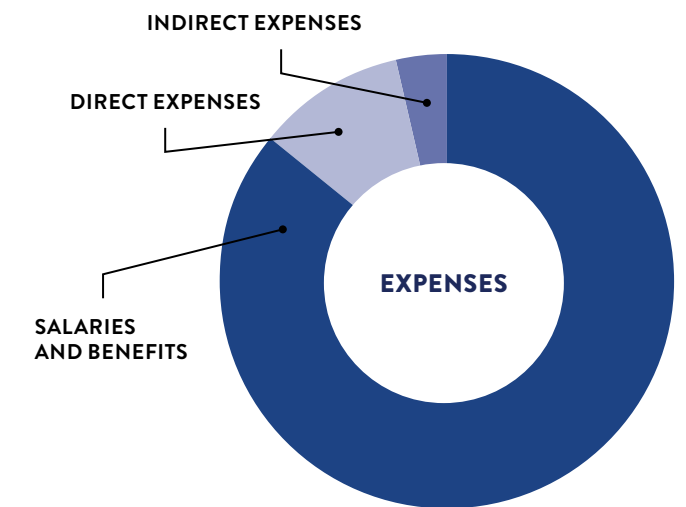
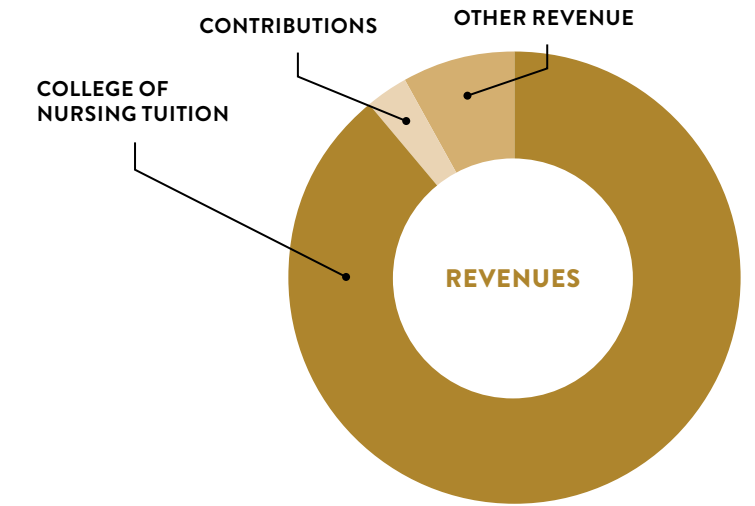
For 2021/2022, the College of Nursing awarded \$32,381 in scholarships to 14 graduate students and \$202,652 to 103 undergraduate students.

REVENUES

Total revenue (including federal support)	\$7,767,508
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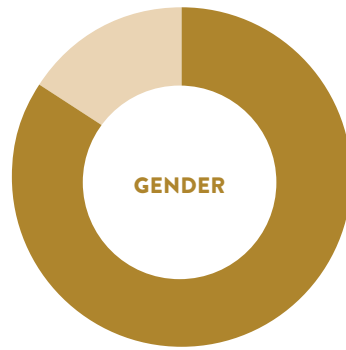
EXPENSES

Salaries and benefits	\$6,677,474
Direct expenses (e.g. maintenance, marketing, equipment)	\$812,851
Indirect expenses (e.g., rent and utilities)	\$277,183
Total net income	\$0

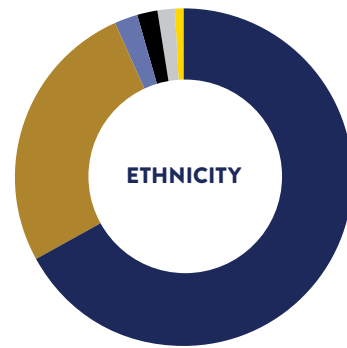


ENROLLMENT DATA

Undergraduate Program Enrollment Data – FALL 2021

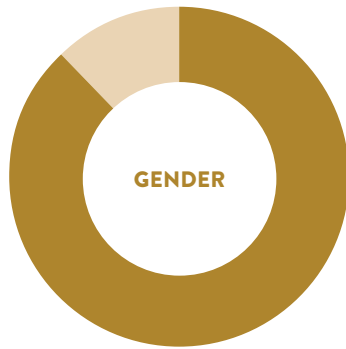


GENDER
 Female (84.3%)
 Male (15.7%)

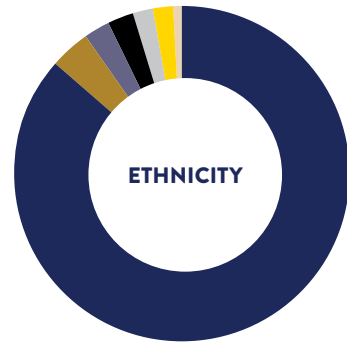


ETHNICITY
 White (90.9%)
 Unknown (36.0%)
 Asian (2.9%)
 Two or more races (2.6%)
 Black/African American (2.2%)
 Hispanic of any race (1.1%)

Graduate Program Enrollment Data – FALL 2021

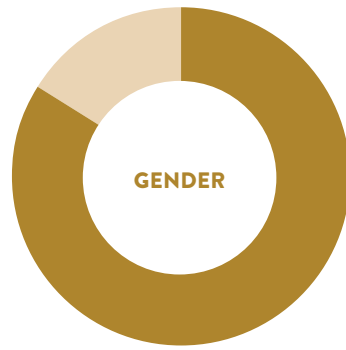


GENDER
 Female (88%)
 Male (12%)

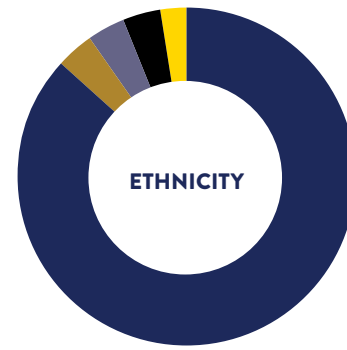


ETHNICITY
 White (86.6%)
 Hispanic of any race (3.8%)
 Asian (2.6%)
 Black/African American (2.6%)
 Two or more races (1.9%)
 Unknown (1.9%)
 American Indian or Alaskan (0.7%)

Undergraduate Program Enrollment Data – SPRING 2022

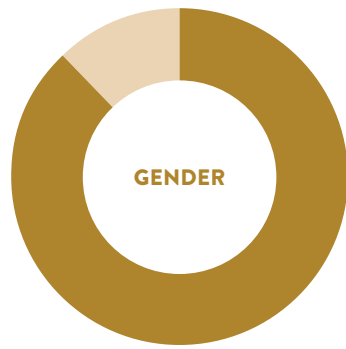


GENDER
 Female (84%)
 Male (16%)

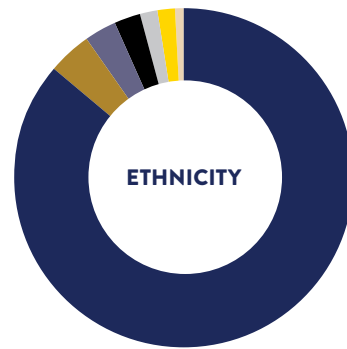


ETHNICITY
 White (86.6%)
 Asian (3.6%)
 Black/African American (3.6%)
 Two or more races (3.6%)
 Hispanic of any race (2.4%)

Graduate Program Enrollment Data – SPRING 2022



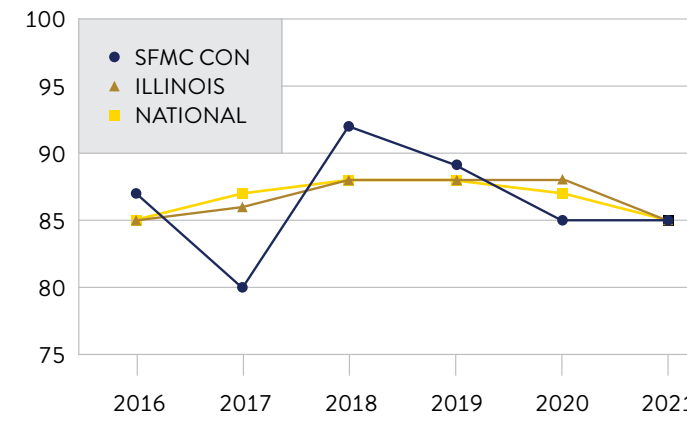
GENDER
 Female (88%)
 Male (12%)



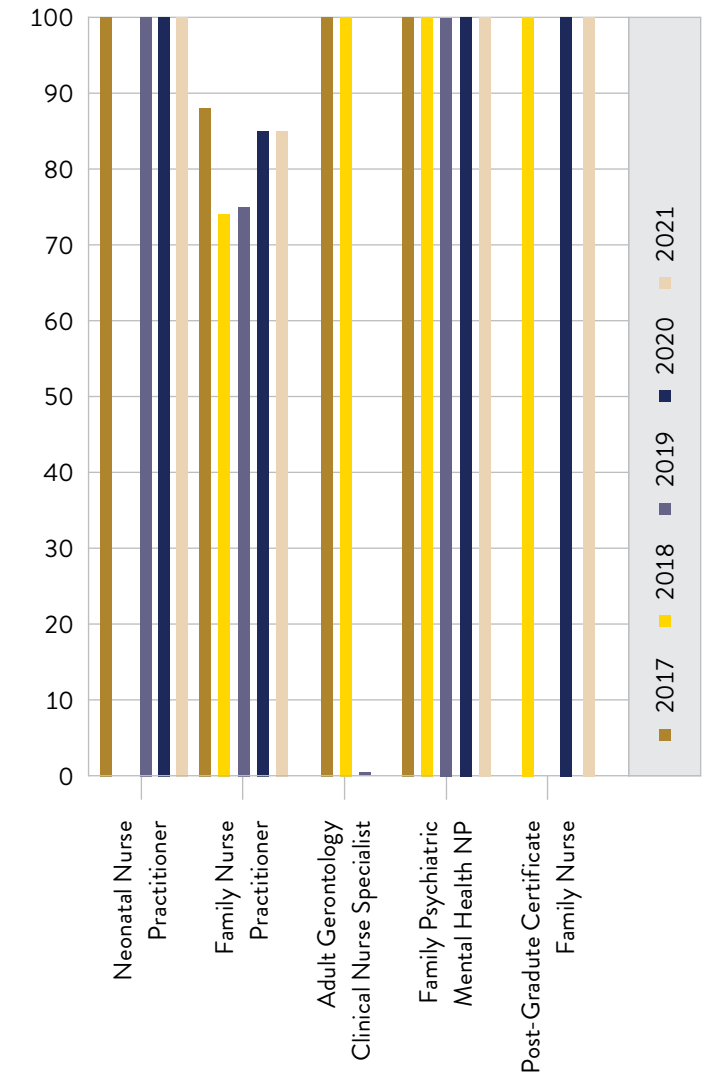
ETHNICITY
 White (86.3%)
 Hispanic of any race (4.0%)
 Two or more races (3.2%)
 Asian (2.4%)
 Black/African American (1.6%)
 Unknown (1.6%)
 American Indian or Alaska (0.8%)

STATISTICS

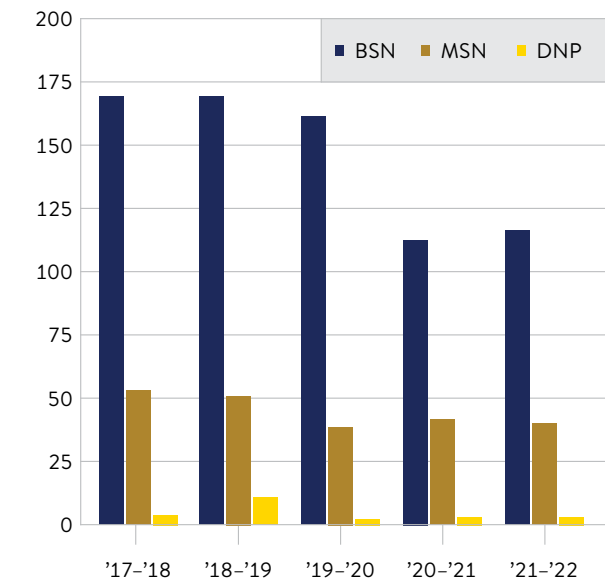
NCLEX Pass Rates



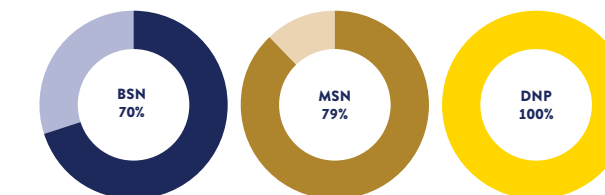
MSN Graduates Certification Pass Rates



Graduation class size by degree



2021 Job Placement within one year of Graduation

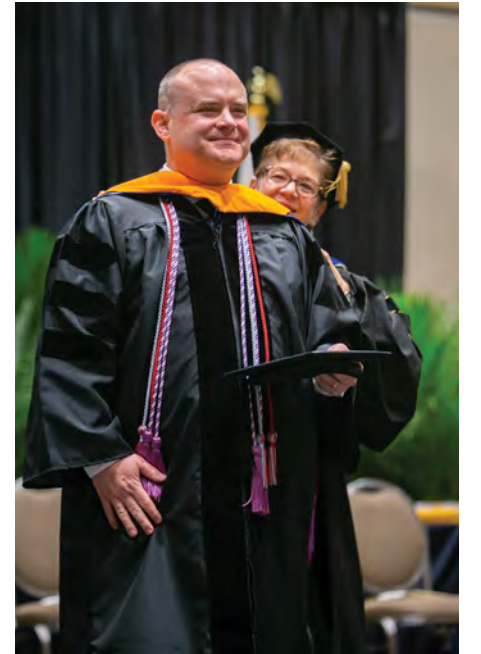


Average GPA (As of end of Spring 2022 semester)

BSN	3.05
MSN	3.87
DNP	3.95

21-22 graduates (By program)

BSN	114
MSN	41
DNP	4
PGC	2



COLLEGE BOARD MEMBERS

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President, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center

Tim Bromley, MA, LCPC

Director of Behavioral Health, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center

Jill Crawford, DNP, RN, NE-BC

Director of Professional Development, Patient Experience, Nursing Practice and Hospitality, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center

Jennifer Croland, DNP, RN, NE-BC

Vice President, Patient Care Services, and Chief Nursing Officer, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center

Lisa Fuller, MS, MA

Vice President, Outpatient and Ancillary Services, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center

Sherri Greenwood, DNP, RN, NEA-BC

Vice President, Surgical and Procedural Services, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center

Wendee Guth, MSN, RN

Dean, Department of Health Careers, Illinois Central College

Shannon Lizer, PhD, APRN-FPA, FNP-BC, FAANP

Interim President, College of Nursing (January 2022)

Kristen Manning, MSN, APRN, CRNA

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, Associated Anesthesiologists

Jesse Placher, JD

Partner, Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP

John Pompe, PsyD, SPHR

Manager, Integrated Health Programs, Caterpillar, Inc.

Ashley Simper, MS, RD, LDN

Dietetic Internship Director, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center (effective March 2022)

Lisa Smith, MSN, RN, IBCLC

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

Sandie Soldwisch, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC

President, College of Nursing (retired December 2021)

Robert Sparrow, MD

Chief Medical Officer and Academic Affairs Lead, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center

Margaret Swanson, PhD, Chairperson

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Illinois Central College (Retired)

Jeffrey D. Thomas, MBA

Vice President of Accounting, Citizens Equity First Credit Union (CEFCU)

Stephanie Wallace, MS, MLS(ASCP)

Program Director of the School of Medical Technician Education, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center (June 2021-March 2022)

Sister Agnes Joseph Williams, O.S.F., MBA

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Madeline Hobbs

Student Representative, College of Nursing

Zachary Taylor

Student Representative, College of Nursing

College Board Emeriti

Sarah Buller Fenton, MS, RN, BC

Director of Nursing, Tazewell County Health Department (retired)

Administration

Sandie Soldwisch, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC

President of the College (retired December 2021)
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Shannon Lizer, PhD, FAANP, FNP-BC

Interim President of the College (January 2022)
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Colleen Becker, MSN, RN, CCRN-K

Vice President of Operations, Academic Programs
MSN, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
(through September 2021)

Suzanne Brown, PhD, DNP, RN

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

Kimberly Mitchell, PhD, RN, CNE

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Graduate Program Admissions Assistant

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Coordinator of Admissions

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Coordinator of Student Accounts & Business Services

Janice Farquharson

Director of Admissions/Registrar

Michaela Cordes

Assistant, Student Finance, Financial Assistance

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Counselor

Jeffrey Kepler

Librarian

William Komaneki

Medical Librarian

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Executive Assistant

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Kaylee Wagner

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Ryan Williams

Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment Specialist

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College Support Representative

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