

SCHOOL OF

NURSING

Dean's Report 2024



SCHOOL OF NURSING

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE**

Message from the Dean



Greetings,

I am excited to share the School of Nursing's Dean's Report with you! The year has been vibrant and productive, and the dedication and talent of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni continually inspires me. This edition spotlights some of the extraordinary work at the SIUE School of Nursing.

You will read about our new strategic plan, which Dr. Ann Popkess spearheaded over the course of a year with input from faculty, staff, students and clinical partners at every level. You will learn about a simulation where students learned about the impact of poverty and about our nurse-managed WE CARE Clinic expanding its reach with its mobile health unit and asthma program. Our summer success academy developed for prospective nursing students is also highlighted. You will also learn about three outstanding students and two faculty who demonstrate excellence in teaching and research. Finally, take a look at the back cover to learn about our new building, on-schedule for the fall of 2025, and the generosity and support received from alumni Mike and Kathy Wenzel.

Our new mission and vision statements emphasize excellence in nursing education and the development of nursing graduates who lead change and advance health equity in our ever-changing healthcare landscape. I am proud of our faculty, staff, students and alumni, who are constants in providing nursing education, innovative scholarship and care to shape a healthier future for all.

I hope you find inspiration in these stories and see SIUE School of Nursing's transformative impact on the lives of individuals and communities. Thank you to all for your unwavering support.

Sincerely,

Judy Liesveld, PhD, PPCNP-BC, CNE, FAAN
School of Nursing Dean and Professor

Points of Pride

3

Undergraduate BSN tracks

3

Master's Degrees

5

DNP Specializations

ABOVE

90%

Certification pass rates in 2023
Family Nurse Practitioner,
Psych Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
and Nurse Anesthesia programs

13

Faculty grants
Supporting scholarship, innovative
initiatives and student outcomes

MORE THAN

1,350

undergraduate

and

350

graduate

Students enrolled in the School of Nursing

91%

NCLEX pass rate for 2023
undergraduate students

1/3

**of the new Health Sciences
Complex is complete**
and on-track for fall 2025

Learn more @ siue.edu/nursing

The School of Nursing Strategic Plan

The School of Nursing has developed its 5-year strategic plan in alignment with the University's five pillars. "I am grateful to all who participated in developing the School of Nursing's Strategic Plan," said Judy Liesveld, PhD, PPCNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, dean of the School of Nursing. "The plan is critical to give direction and guidance for our initiatives and focus in the next five years. We identified important and courageous goals for the coming years and will continually strategize ways to meet them."

01

Access and Opportunity

- a. Increase recruitment of diverse undergraduate and graduate students
- b. Develop innovative programs aimed to recruit a diverse student population
- c. Explore creative and innovative partnerships to support student retention
- d. Create innovative and strategic pathways to grow enrollment and progress students to graduation

02

Student Success and Inclusive Excellence

- a. Increase retention of diverse undergraduate and graduate students
- b. Create holistic approaches to learning and assessment
- c. Develop high-impact experiential learning opportunities
- d. Increase first to second year retention to 90%
- e. The School will be recognized nationally as a leader in equity curriculum

03

Excellent and Diverse Faculty and Staff

- a. Attract, engage and hire diverse faculty
- b. Attract, engage and hire diverse staff
- c. Retain diverse faculty and staff members
- d. Demonstrate commitment to student-centeredness in all learning environments
- e. Promote faculty and staff excellence

04

Change Agent

- a. Structure and align community engagement efforts and global partnerships with curriculum, clinical experiences, and scholarly activities of the School
- b. The School will be leaders in advancing health equity in the region
- c. Adopt an integrative scholarship model that promotes collaboration in the school, and across the University and SIU System that sustains School goals

05

Sustainability

- a. Maintain CCNE/COAA accreditation programs as applicable
- b. Diversify revenue streams to promote sustainability
- c. Increased philanthropic engagement and giving
- d. Develop a budget plan to sustain the WE CARE program by January 2026

Learning the Realities of Poverty and Healthcare



Poverty is a reality faced by countless individuals and families. It is difficult to understand the impacts of poverty without experiencing it firsthand. Last spring, SIUE senior-level nursing students and social work students engaged in an interprofessional collaborative simulation to learn how to care for patients who face systemic challenges and live in poverty.

Through funding from a Health Resources and Service Administration training grant, the students role-played the lives of low-income individuals and navigated the decision-making processes of securing necessities. The Missouri Community Action Network's Community Action Poverty Simulation immersed the students in the realities of poverty.

"This initiative deepened awareness of the influence of the social determinants of health," said Amy Reed, PhD, RN, director of School of Nursing's Simulation Laboratory for Health Sciences. "In a reflective debrief session, students shared their surprise at the hurdles individuals and families encounter in accessing fundamental resources."

"Healthcare often ranked low on the priority list for their simulated families," Reed continued. "Through the poverty simulation, our students emerged with enhanced empathy and understanding and a renewed commitment to effecting positive change within their future practices and communities."



WE CARE Clinic Continues to Expand Access to Healthcare

“The mission of the WE CARE Clinic is to advance health equity through access to care, patient-provider concordance and student readiness to practice,” said Jerrica Ampadu, PhD, RN, CCP, associate professor in the School of Nursing and Clinic director.

The WE CARE Clinic’s new mobile unit is allowing staff to reach even more patients and further advance health equity by providing community-based services in East St. Louis, Fairmont City and surrounding Illinois communities.

The WE CARE REACH (Responding, Educating and Advocating for Community Health) mobile health unit arrived in March 2024 as part of a \$4 million grant from the Health Resources Service Administration that was awarded in 2022.

WE CARE REACH is equipped to provide the same primary care and chronic care management services the WE CARE Clinic offers, including asthma care.

WE CARE clinicians educate patients on asthma prevention and care and assess client’s home for asthma triggers. When triggers are identified, they provide supplies such as spacers, high-efficiency filters, vacuums and pest management to minimize the triggers.



**Help us continue the great work
within the community!**

Make your gift today!

connect.siu.edu/g/donate

SIUE School of Nursing WE CARE Clinic Fund #3912



SIUE’s IMAGINE Summer Success Academy

“This opportunity really helped me feel more comfortable about going into my nursing career,” said Charity Keely.

Keely is a first-year SIUE nursing student who attended the Increasing Mentorship and Graduation in Nursing Education (IMAGINE) Summer Success Academy this past June. The School of Nursing hosted 30 first-year college students who are pursuing careers in nursing. The camp introduced the students to the exciting possibilities offered to SIUE students.

“Our goals were to provide comprehensive exposure to various nursing roles and specialties, offer hands-on activities and simulations to develop basic nursing skills, introduce patient communication skills, familiarize students with college life and the academic expectations of a nursing program, connect students with current nursing students, faculty, and healthcare professionals, and facilitate mentorship opportunities and encourage peer networking.”

Myjal Garner, DNP, APRN, FNP-C

Instructor, School of Nursing

IMAGINE Program Director

Family Nurse Practitioner, SIUE WE CARE Clinic

The four-day residential summer camp was a comprehensive and immersive college experience. Students were introduced to essential nursing skills, including CPR training and certification, and learned first-hand about providing patient care in the School’s Simulated Learning Center.



SIUE's Future Leaders in Healthcare

At SIUE, a new generation of healthcare leaders is emerging. Our students are making remarkable strides in their fields and preparing to impact their communities through quality patient care. Here are a few of the students who are transforming the future of healthcare with their skills, passions and commitment to bettering the lives of others.



Demarco Brownlee
Cahokia, Ill.
DNP/Family Nurse Practitioner Student

When Demarco Brownlee was a kid, he would dress up in scrubs and tell people that he would one day become a doctor, and he is doing just that.

Brownlee successfully earned a BA from McKendree University and a BSN from SIUE and is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. As a first-generation college student, he admits the difficulties of his educational journey but is quick to also point out the blessings.

“The beauty behind being a first-generation college student is that I have started a legacy,” said Brownlee. “I strive to inspire my peers and those who will come after me. If you have a dream that is strong enough to be manifested, then all you have to do is work to make that dream a reality.”

Recognizing the need to help SIUE students realize they are well prepared for classroom instruction and their future place in nursing, Brownlee is creating a mentorship program for SIUE graduate students for his culminating doctoral project.

“SIUE prepares you for the ever-changing environment of medicine, so when challenges occur, you hone in on the life skills that each professor and clinical faculty has offered you throughout the program,” Brownlee explained. “SIUE does not just hire professors; they hire people inspired to usher in a generation of dreamers and push them to be the best individuals they can be.”

Brownlee aspires to open his own practice and focus on creating affordable and accessible healthcare for everyone in his community.

“Demarco’s desire to provide quality healthcare by individualizing care for his patients will help him to establish the rapport and trust that patients need to feel comfortable with their provider. He will be an asset to the nursing profession.”

Valerie Griffin, DNP, PPCNP-BC, FNP-BC, PMHS, FAANP
Associate Professor and Director of Nurse Practitioner Specializations



Anozha Singletary
Chicago
BS in Nursing Student

Senior Anozha Singletary has made an instrumental impact during her time at SIUE.

Singletary is part of SIUE’s Community-Based Nurse Fellowship, a competitive program that educates nursing students on health-related social needs, including how racism impacts nursing and the delivery of healthcare.

“The fellowship is amazing,” said Singletary. “It is a chance to learn about the social detriments of health that people in our very own communities experience on a daily basis and how to best help them. It has given me the opportunity to work with many influential nurses who care for the community and to follow in their footsteps.”

In addition to the program, she is also an active member of the Student Nurse Achievement Program, a supplemental instruction leader for pathophysiology and an avid volunteer participating in many hours of volunteer work for multiple organizations. She was also named a 2024 Student Laureate from the Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

Singletary will continue to utilize her knowledge for the betterment of humanity following her graduation in May 2025. She plans to become a certified nurse midwife and help reduce maternal morbidity and mortality rates.



Christine Aquino
Plainfield, Ill.
Post-Graduate DNP Student

Aquino earned a master’s in healthcare and nursing administration in May 2024. The spring commencement ceremony was one of the few times she was on campus.

“My master’s program was completely online, so unfortunately my moments at SIUE are very limited, but participating in the commencement ceremony was extremely memorable,” said Aquino.

“I was high fiving a line of professors I had never met as I walked to the gymnasium in my cap and gown,” Aquino continued. “They were extra enthusiastic and cheering us on with so much vigor. The feeling of accomplishment was unforgettable.”

Aquino is now continuing her education at SIUE and is enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

“The faculty and staff individualized my educational experience the way a nurse would individualize patient care,” she said. “They understand that we are already working professionals who also have other responsibilities such as full-time work and families. That is why I chose to stay at SIUE.”

Elevating Nursing Practice Through Teaching and Research

SIUE nursing students learn from experienced clinicians and advanced practice nurses with demonstrated excellence in teaching, scholarship and leadership in the nursing profession.

“Our faculty members exemplify excellence in teaching, practice and scholarship. They are dedicated to nursing education and the success of our students. I am extremely proud to have such a talented faculty, including our two featured faculty members.”

*Judy Liesveld, PhD, PPCNP-BC, CNE, FAAN
dean of the School of Nursing*

Excellence in Research



Annie Imboden, DNP, ANP, CPNP, assistant professor in the School of Nursing, is focusing her pediatric health research on the outcomes of child health specifically associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

“When we started wearing masks during the pandemic, I noticed that it was harder to establish quick rapport with my patients, particularly the infants and toddlers who are

in the stage of stranger anxiety,” Imboden said. “I started to wonder whether the pandemic was affecting social connections and childhood development in other ways.”

Imboden decided to focus on how the pandemic affected patterns of unhealthy weight gain in children and is studying the body mass index patterns for children ages 5-18 from the pre- to post-pandemic years of 2018-2023.

“Preliminary research supports the fact that children had higher levels of overweight and obesity during the pandemic due to closure of schools and sports and changes in eating habits and stress levels,” Imboden explained. “I aim to study those trends, along with determining whether the levels of overweight and obesity is improving, and if there are differences between socioeconomic, race and gender groups.”

Imboden hopes her research pursuits, along with sharing her passion for pediatric healthcare, inspire her current DNP students as they begin their final projects which synthesize the knowledge and skills they have gained during their advanced studies.

Excellence in Teaching



Michele Beatty Bachmann, MSN, BSN, is beginning her 17th year as an instructor in the School of Nursing. She is a course leader for the online RN-BSN program and facilitates the acute care clinicals for undergraduate seniors, helping them learn in the ICU and surgical floor of a hospital.

“During clinicals, I assist the students in developing the plan of care for the patient,”

said Beatty Bachmann. “Students collaborate with the nurse and intradisciplinary team and implement the plan of care. This process brings their learning full circle, lends to a deeper understanding of the content and gives them the opportunity to master their nursing skills.”

Beatty Bachmann’s favorite part of being an instructor is when she sees her work with the students reflected in their nursing knowledge.

“The best teaching reward I have experienced, and continue to experience, is when I run into former students in the healthcare setting and see them practicing what I had a part of preparing them for,” she said. “Also, several of my former students are now faculty colleagues at SIUE, that is truly amazing.”

Transforming Nursing Education

Construction of the new Health Sciences Complex for the School of Nursing is well under way and set to be completed in the fall of 2025. The complex will transform the future of SIUE nursing education, practice, research and service while also developing the nursing workforce for the benefit of students, patients and healthcare partners in this region and beyond.

School of Business alumnus Michael Wenzel ‘70 and School of Nursing alumna Kathy Wenzel ‘71, generously stepped forward to make the first lead gift to the SIUE School of Nursing Health Sciences Complex initiative. Both are community leaders and philanthropists who have made an important impact on several emerging priorities for SIUE. Their most recent gift will provide state-of-the-art furnishings and clinical simulation equipment for School of Nursing mental health programs in the new Health Sciences Complex and the Michael N. and Kathleen A. Wenzel – Maternal Health Simulation Lab will be named in their honor.

“As the nursing School has vastly expanded to an enrollment of more than 1,700 students, we felt a need to support the impressive educational technology that will be offered by the Health Sciences Complex,” said Kathy. “With degree programs that include undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate specialties, we encourage others to support the Health Sciences Complex. Nursing receives

a very small percentage of health care philanthropy, it’s time to change that. We can make a great difference in the future of health care in this nation by supporting nursing.”

Gifts to the School of Nursing’s Health Sciences Complex Initiative will directly provide cutting-edge furnishings, systems and equipment for modern classrooms, study spaces and meeting rooms, along with state-of-the-art, high-tech, primary care and advanced nursing care clinical simulation centers and labs in the new facility.

**Join the Health Science
Complex Initiative!**

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School of Nursing
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Campus Box 1066
Edwardsville, IL 62026

Degree Programs

The SIUE School of Nursing is leading the way in nursing education in the St. Louis metro region and downstate Illinois. Our progressive and innovative programs prepare nursing graduates for successful careers in the rapidly evolving and complex healthcare environment of the future.

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