

AACN NEW ERA FOR ACADEMIC NURSING AWARD

The academic nursing partnership between the UF College of Nursing (UFCON) and leadership at University of Florida Health Nursing is fully committed to the ideal, **Embrace a New Vision of Academic Nursing**. We have established an innovative and sustained relationship that exemplifies collaboration to promote intentional cross-engagement, co-design, and commitment across practice, research and education. The UFCON has a long tradition of innovation and excellence, starting in 1956 with founding dean Dorothy Smith who dreamt of a new form of nursing education — a school where knowledge based clinical excellence was the norm for administrators, faculty members, staff nurses and students alike. Dean Smith was one of the early nursing leaders to fully integrate nursing education, practice and research.

Following the appointment of Anna McDaniel, PhD, RN, FAAN, as dean, in 2013, the “next generation” academic/practice partnership was intentionally formed to strengthen the college’s collaborative relationship within the UF Academic Health Center in Gainesville and extended to UF Health Jacksonville. The UFCON leadership team (dean, executive associate dean, associate deans and department chairs) meets regularly with nursing leaders from UF Health hospital systems to plan strategies to achieve our shared vision based on the *Advancing Healthcare Transformation: A New Era for Academic Nursing* report¹ and consistent with the *Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity*². Our shared vision is: **Academic nursing at UF Health will be the premier nursing model for innovation and partnerships, united in our commitment to serving diverse communities and to improve population health outcomes.**

In 2016, we embarked upon a joint strategic planning process, most recently focusing on enhancing the clinical learning environment for UF prelicensure students, pursuing a shared research agenda and aligning DNP projects to support advanced practice student achievements and enhance evidence-based practice at UF Health. Task forces consisting of leaders from the college and hospital developed project charters that identify strategies to achieve our shared goals, including targeted timelines and deliverables.

Notable outcomes of mutual benefit from our collaboration include the following:

- UFCON faculty participate on all nine councils that are essential to the Magnet Model for Excellence at UF Health Gainesville. Eighty percent of Jacksonville-based faculty are members of UF Health Jacksonville governance committees.
- UFCON students and faculty have launched numerous evidence-based practice projects (e.g., DNP quality improvement projects, senior unit leadership design projects) in partnership with clinical units.
- In 2015 the UFCON launched an RN-to-BSN online program for UF Health nurses to support UF Health Magnet status criterion for BSN-prepared staff.
- Countless UF Health staff nurses and nurse leaders are enrolled in or graduated from UF College of Nursing academic programs (RN-to-BSN, DNP and PhD).
- A College of Nursing faculty member serves as Director of Nursing Research at the UF Health Gainesville campus in a jointly funded position.

- UF Health has provided funding to equip our simulation laboratory to better prepare our students for the clinical learning environment.

As a diverse — yet unified — body, UF Health academic nursing remains committed to transforming healthcare.

REFERENCES CITED

¹American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Advancing healthcare transformation: A new era for academic nursing. March 1, 2016. Accessed May 02, 2022.

<https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/Publications/AACN-New-Era-report.pdf>.

²National Academy of Medicine. (2021). *The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a path to achieve health equity*. Report Recommendations. Retrieved from

https://www.nap.edu/resource/25982/Recommendations_Future%20of%20Nursing_final.pdf July 3, 2021