CELEBRATION OF NURSING
YEAR IN REVIEW - 2018
I just wanted to say hello as the newly elected President of the Illinois Nurses Foundation (INF). I am excited to accept this role and see where the INF will be going in the years to come. I have been involved with the INF since its inception in one way or another. Initially, it was as a donor. Early on I recognized the great work of the INF and the role it was playing in the advancement of nursing and healthcare in Illinois. As we all know, it takes monies to just run the basics of a Foundation, and monies to do the work of a Foundation. The Foundation is run by a volunteer Board of Directors, but staff is needed to support the Board’s work and coordinate the INFs many functions, programs, and activities. There are no “members” or “membership dues” to support the Foundation. The INF represents ALL nurses in the state of Illinois.

The INF collaborates with community partners to promote the health of the public by supporting nurses through charitable, research, and educational initiatives. The Foundation provides funding for nursing scholarships and scholarly initiatives that advances the nursing profession and promotes the health of people.

The Illinois Nurses Foundation (INF) exists to allow Illinois nurses the opportunity to give economic value and power to their values of caring, concern and compassion. In order to continue the work of the INF, continued donations, sponsorships of activities, and fundraising events are needed. Philanthropy allows the expression of the desire to promote the welfare of others and to promote positive change in society. This gives YOU, our Nursing Voice readers, the opportunity to support the INF and its many programs. Since the INF is a 501C3 non-for-profit organization, all donations may be eligible as a charitable donation; please check with your tax accountant.

So, you may ask, how can you give or participate in supporting the INF. One way would be to go to the INF website, www.illinoisnurses.foundation and click on Donate. You can donate using a credit card or send a check to the INF. Additionally, you may have the ability to make a sponsorship donation for the 40 Under 40 Event or the Holiday Fundraising Gala.

Please consider remembering the Foundation as we continue our work.

Cheryl Anema
Cheryl Anema, PhD, RN
President, Illinois Nurses Foundation
Illinois Nurses Foundation – Overview

The Illinois Nurses Foundation was established in 2001 and our vision, mission and purpose provide us with the tools we need to serve the nurses and people of Illinois.

The Illinois Nurses Foundation (INF) vision;

“Developing the nursing profession to transform healthcare in Illinois”

The Illinois Nurses Foundation’s purpose is to collaborate with community partners in promoting the health of the public by supporting nurses through charitable, research, and educational initiatives.

The INF, as led by the Board of Directors, assures that its purpose is accomplished through scholarships, research and fellowship funding as well as continuing education for the nurses of Illinois. We offer several scholarships and fellowships that can be used to further the vision of the foundation.

Through these initiatives, we are supporting the future of nursing in Illinois, and safeguarding the care patients in Illinois receive.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council serves as a critical community champion of the Illinois Nurses Foundation. Members of the Advisory Council share their gifts in service to our mission by providing our organization with their professional expertise; their diverse knowledge of constituent perspectives; their connections to local, national or international resources, colleagues or peers; their philanthropic support or other forms of needed assistance. The Advisory Council has no governing function within the organization.

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

• Mary Ann Tuft, Tuft & Associates
• Susan King, PhD, MSN, MBA, RN
• Vicki Keough, PhD, APN-BC, ACNP, FAAN, Dean, Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, Loyola University
• Mark Miller, Publisher, Arthur L. Davis Publishing
• Nancy Brent, MS, JD, RN, Author

GIFT OF HOPE LEGACY PROGRAM

The creation of the Gift of Hope Legacy Program utilizes an individual’s ability to provide financial support to the INF through sound financial estate planning. By allocating contributions to the nursing profession, it demonstrates support and concern for the profession and its future. The Program allows for assistance in reviewing one’s estate, and available assistance to an advisor while preparing the estate plan.

This plan involves wills, trusts, legacy donations, bequests and gift annuities. With the aid of a financial advisor and information obtained from the Illinois Nurses Foundation, securing the future of Illinois nursing can be an easy and convenient process.

NURSES IN NEED INITIATIVE

On an individual basis and in response to extreme need situations (i.e. natural disasters) the INF provides relief funds based on the Board’s review and approval of each situation.

FELLOWSHIPS

ANNE ZIMMERMAN FELLOWSHIP

Anne Zimmerman served the Illinois Nurses Association (INA) in many roles. She was the Executive Director from 1954-1981, and President of the American Nurses Association from 1976-1978. She was one of a select handful of courageous women and men who, over the last 60 years, transformed nursing to a respected profession.

Anne’s leadership in representing nurses and her outstanding collaborative management skills fostered growth at INA. To honor Anne Zimmerman’s memory
and keep alive her spirit of commitment to promoting leadership within nursing associations, the Anne Zimmerman Fellowship was created. The first Anne Zimmerman Fellow was first awarded in 2005. A recent recipient developed a retired nurse’s network here in Illinois. This is a wonderful example of how Anne’s spirit continues to thrive at ANA-Illinois, the professional association for registered nurses in Illinois.

**MOTHER BICKERDYKE AWARD**
This award honors a nurse(s) who supports the true spirit of Illinois nursing by preserving its’ history, performing exceptional selfless work for Illinois citizens and/or exhibiting unparalleled leadership qualities of compassion and dedication. An honorarium/stipend to help fund a project will be determined by the INF Board pending review of a proposal.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**SONNE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**
The Sonne Scholarship Program was created through a generous bequest from the estate of Maybelle Sonne, a retired nurse, who directed that the funds be used to aid those entering a career in nursing.

Members in good standing of the Student Nurse Association of Illinois (SNAI) are eligible for the Illinois Nurses Foundation (INF) Sonne Scholarship. These funds may be used to cover tuition, fees, or other costs encountered by a student enrolled in a state-approved nursing program which leads to eligibility to sit for licensure examination as a registered professional nurse.

A committee of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Nurses Foundation will review the scholarship applications and recommend recipients to the full INF Board of Directors who will make the final selection.

Depending on the funds available at the time of recipient selection, up to four scholarships of $500 to $1,500 will be awarded in the fall of each year. The recipients will receive a year’s free membership in INA upon graduation.

**ARTHUR L. DAVIS SCHOLARSHIP**
In 2008, the INF developed criteria for a new scholarship for nurses looking to advance their degrees to become nursing faculty. The Arthur L Davis Scholarship is one step towards finding a solution for the looming nursing shortage.

Amount of Scholarship Award: $1000.00

This scholarship was made possible through generous donations from Arthur L. Davis Publishing Agency, Inc.

**CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**
The Centennial Scholarship is dedicated to qualified students majoring in Nursing who are considered underrepresented according to the Sullivan Commission data.

Background:
African American, Hispanic and American Indians represent 25% of the US population. Per the 2007 Sullivan Report on Diversity, there were approximately 2.2 million nurses employed. However, only 9% of the employed nurses represented diverse populations. Additionally, in Nursing, Asians are also an underrepresented group.

Definitions:
In Nursing, underrepresented individuals include: African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Asians and Males.

Scholarship amount to be determined.

**WENDY K. BURGESS DISTRICT 19 SCHOLARSHIP**

Purpose:
This scholarship is dedicated to qualified students majoring in Nursing who reside in or attend nursing schools within the historical boundaries of the INA District 19 (West Cook and DuPage Counties).

Background:
Illinois Nurses Association District 19 was committed to the education and development of students interested in careers in the profession of Nursing. To that end, the District endowed a scholarship with the Illinois Nurses
Foundation to assist nursing students who reside in or attend nursing schools within the historical boundaries of INA District 19.

Definitions:

Nursing schools within the INA District 19 historical boundaries include: Loyola University, Triton College, College of DuPage, Elmhurst College, West Suburban College of Nursing, Benedictine University, and Lewis University.

Scholarship amount to be determined.

D21 SCHOLARSHIP

The District 21 Scholarship is dedicated to US veteran nursing students with military service within the past 10 years and/or nursing students employed at the University of Illinois, University of Chicago, City of Chicago or Stroger Hospital of Cook County.

Scholarship amount to be $1000 and can be used to pay tuition, buy books and/or supplies related to the training.

D2 SCHOLARSHIP

The District 2 Scholarship is dedicated to nursing students enrolled at one of the following programs of nursing:

- University of St Francis
- Joliet Junior College
- College of DuPage
- Elgin Community College

Scholarship amount to be $1000. One scholarship to be awarded to each program listed above.

NORTH SUBURBAN NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

In honor of the historical District 18, this scholarship was developed to assist undergraduate and graduate student schools of nursing located in north suburban Chicagoland schools of nursing. The scholarship is dedicated to qualified students majoring in nursing who are currently enrolled and attending one of the accredited schools of nursing within Northern Cook and Lake County.

Background:

Former District 18 was committed to the education and development of students in serving within the profession of nursing. This endowed scholarship is intended to provide opportunities with the Illinois Nurses Foundation to assist undergraduate and graduate nursing students who attend one of the following accredited schools of nursing within the above region: College of Lake County, Harper Community College, Loyola University, North Park University, Northern Illinois University, Oakton Community College. Schools of nursing which have lost accreditation will be ineligible until accreditation is achieved and/or renewed.

Scholarship will be awarded annually in the amount of $1000 to one undergraduate or one graduate nursing student.

SOUTH SUBURBAN NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

Purpose:

In honor of the historical District 20 of the IL Nurses Association, this scholarship was developed to assist students attending nursing schools located in the South Suburban Chicagoland Schools of Nursing. This scholarship is dedicated to qualified students majoring in nursing who are currently enrolled and attending one of the accredited nursing schools within the south suburbs as outlined below.

Background:

District 20 was committed to the education and development of students interested in careers in the profession of nursing. This endowed scholarship is intended to provide opportunities, with the Illinois Nurses Foundation, to assist undergraduate and graduate nursing students who attend one of the following accredited nursing schools: South Suburban Community College, Moraine Valley Community College, Prairie State Community College, St. Xavier University, Trinity Christian College, Governor’s State University, or Chamberlain School of Nursing – Tinley Park Campus (only). Schools listed which have lost accreditation would not be an eligible school until accreditation is achieved.

Scholarship will be awarded annually in the amount of $1000 to one undergraduate or one graduate nursing student.
Nurse of the Year Finalists

Christine Durbin, PhD, JD, RN

Dr. Christine Durbin has a long history of service and mentorship as a nurse, educator, and leader in the profession. As a nurse for nearly 50 years, she has experience as a nurse in acute care, an instructor, attorney, manager of a nurse-managed clinic and most recently a tenured faculty member at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville for the past 22 years. In this role, I have come to know Chris as a colleague and friend. Many times, she has lent a thoughtful ear to my concerns and provided sage advice to assist me in navigating difficult situations.

Dr. Durbin has mentored dozens of new faculty, as well as faculty who are seeking to advance their careers. Dr. Durbin is kind, fair, just and encourages faculty to achieve their highest potential. Often faculty seek out her advice and counsel when working with students and developing curricula. When there is a student who is struggling, Dr. Durbin is frequently asked to take on mentoring this student to and through graduation. She has served in the role of mentor to over 100 high performing freshman students for the past three years.

Jane Llewellyn, PhD, RN, NEA-BC

Dr. Llewellyn, PhD, RN, NEA-BC is a recognized nursing leader whose accomplishments reflect a variety of clinical, academic and administrative areas. As a founding faculty member of the Rush University College of Nursing and a pioneer in establishment of the Rush Model for Nursing, she helped to shape the practitioner-teacher role, was active in the development of one of the nation’s first shared governance models and pioneered the primary nursing care model.

As Rush’s Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer for 15 years, she nurtured the nursing culture and was an early champion of the Magnet recognition program, guiding the nursing staff to achieve Magnet designation and two re-designations.

She is currently Professor Emerita at Rush College of Nursing and is a Magnet Program Appraiser. She was a Wharton Nurse Executive Fellow and is a fellow of The Chicago Institute of Medicine and recipient of many recognition awards. She has published extensively on practice and research topics and is a co-author of the book, Nursing Research for Nursing Practice, with Dr. Karyn Holm.

Chris is a generous supporter of the school of nursing, giving of her time and talents to encourage student and faculty scholarship. Recently she nominated six faculty colleagues for nurse of the year awards and all six were finalists, and two received awards. She has also published in the discipline and is a regular contributor to the Potter and Perry Fundamentals of Nursing text. In addition, Chris assists her husband, a practicing cardiologist, in his office to manage the practice and care for patients. She is frequently sought out to guest lecture on legal-ethical aspects of the profession as a licensed attorney. Chris is an active member of numerous nursing organizations including ANA, AMSN, Missouri Bar Association and American Association of Nurse Attorneys.

I am fortunate to have worked with Chris for the past 10 years. She has inspired me to be a better educator, nurse, and leader through her selfless acts. She is not afraid to speak her mind to advocate for fellow faculty and any student. She is a kind, compassionate nurse educator with a deep commitment and passion for furthering the profession of nursing through her work as a selfless advocate for faculty, students and patients.
Jennifer M. Grenier, DNP, RN-BC

Dr. Jennifer Grenier has had a long tenor of nursing leadership within the Rush University System, but within the last year her leadership skills have truly shined brighter than ever. Jennifer is a true mentor, advocate and leader in the Nursing Profession. This past year, Jennifer was asked by the Nursing Senior Leadership to be the Nursing Project Coordinator of the largest patient reassignment, also known as RPATH, that the institution has endured. Over the course of nine months, Jennifer helped coordinate 3 physical moves of units without any issues. Additionally, she served as the Incident Commander during the RPATH implementation over seven days.

She led Town Halls, meetings and question and answer sessions with nurses, assistive personal and physicians to ensure that everyone was aware of what was happening. She coordinated all of these moves amongst charge nurses, bed managers and nursing leaders to ensure the goals of RPATH were met, having all patients in the right bed in an efficient amount of time. While this improvement project was taking place, she continued to successfully run Rush Rehab, an inpatient Rehabilitation Facility with over 30 beds and the interim Unit Director for a 32-bed Medical-Surgical Unit.

Jennifer is also the founder of the Rush Surplus Project. This program continues to run successfully out of two Rush Hospitals (Rush University Medical Center and Rush Oak Park Hospital). The teams of volunteers help to package food from the different cafeterias and donate the food to local homeless shelters and food pantries. Overall, more than 10,000 pounds of food has been donated to address food insecurity. She coordinates the monthly schedule with over 150 employee volunteers.

She has been asked to come to other health systems across the state to help them initiate this successful program. Jennifer has graciously taken on a Doctorate of Nursing Practice student to help expand the Rush Surplus Project. This expansion is the creation of a food pantry that will help to provide food to our patients upon discharge. Jennifer has always had a vision to have food delivered to these patients, similar to how medicine is delivered and/or provided to our patients. These patients are identified as needing food through the implementation of a screening tool that addresses all of the Social Determinants of Health. For the individuals that screen positive for food insecurity, they will be provided with food upon discharge, along with resources to be able to obtain the food they will need once they are no longer in the hospital.

The Surplus team has spoken nationally at the American Public Health Association National Conference, as well as at the Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders Annual Conference. Jennifer is the recipient of the Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders Community Effort Award for her amazing success with the Surplus Project.

As if this wasn’t enough, she focused her Doctorate of Nursing Practice studies on decreasing work place bullying and incivility. She has worked with many hospitals across the state of Illinois to provide them with the tools they need to stomp out bullying in the workplace. She has been published in Health Care Leaders Magazine for her efforts with this important topic. She has spoken about this topic to various Colleges of Nursing, as well as nationally at the Emergency Nurse Association National Conference.

Finally, she dedicates herself to the success of Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders as the President Elect.

Jennifer is a nursing hero because she always strives for success. She works for the good of the patients and the organization and continues her efforts always. She has been a mentor to many people and helps people achieve their dreams in the nursing world. She is truly one of a kind and is always looking for ways to further the profession, more than she already has.
The first inspirational nurse was the one who cared for my sister in the hospital when we were little. I didn’t know her name, but knew I wanted to be a nurse just like her.

In the spring of 2017, Donna toured, the Juvenile Justice Center facility in Kane County where up to 30 kids between the ages of 10-21 years involved in the court system are supported.

During the tour, she was informed that the Center served 1,062 kids in 2016. The kids stay at the Center an average of 8-weeks while they are in the court system. Many of these kids are from low-income families and have experienced food insecurity. But Donna knew as an APRN that there is support of a relationship between exposure to gardens with overall health and well-being.

During the tour of the Center, buckets of plants were noticed along the basketball court. Many of the plants needed care. As an avid gardener, Donna asked about the care of the garden area. Funds from the Fit for Kids Initiative made the garden supplies possible earlier in the spring in order to increase physical activity and healthy eating with kids in the County, including those in the Center.

It was soon apparent that the opportunity to teach the kids about maintaining a garden, as well as composting, and native gardening was possible at the Center.

For the kids, working outside also provides outdoor exercise, as well as learning a skill that could translate into a hobby or a career. The kids in the Center were given the opportunity to join the garden group if they had earned privileges for positive behaviors during the week. They also received commissary payment - which often meant spicy hot Cheetos. One young man said that when he is released, he is going to work on his grandmother’s garden.

While Donna pursued a Master Gardener certification that fall, she worked up a proposal for a proper garden within a fenced area of the Center with some experienced gardeners and spoke with gardeners from other Jail centers in Illinois for guidance. With donations from Ball Seed, a grant from the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners and some remaining funds from the previous year, plans were made for 3 raised beds, a native garden, a composting area and a central floral beautification area to attract butterflies. The Kane County Master Gardeners named the Center as an official Master Gardener site in the Spring of 2018.

In April 2018, 3 raised beds were assembled with security considerations by a team of workers in the Center with Donna and her ‘volunteer’ husband. The kids will benefit by gaining knowledge in the classroom, learning skills in the garden, and participating in nature that produces food for their meals. It is a great opportunity for the kids, the staff and the volunteers.

I am sending a contribution to your organization on behalf of the nomination of Donna Plonczynski APRN. Donna’s my husband’s cousin and has been a nurse for probably 30 or 40 years. She started out as an LPN and earned her RN-BSN and PhD in the nursing field. She taught at NIU and helped start a women’s clinic. I hope she will be considered for nurse of the year.
2018 Nurse of the Year

Mary Kelly, MBA, RN, CNRN, FAHA

Mary Kelly, BS, RN is a Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse whose focus and passion is expert and timely care of the patient experiencing a stroke. Her background in nursing includes critical care and neuroscience nursing. Prior to studying nursing, she began a business career in accounting. She is currently a Disease Specific Care Reviewer for The Joint Commission. In that capacity she participates in and leads Comprehensive and Primary Stroke & Traumatic Brain Injury reviews of stroke centers across the nation. She has helped to develop reviewer tools and precepts new reviewers in this role.

Past positions have included the Director of Stroke Network Operations for a major health system in the Chicago area and Stroke Program Coordinator for a major suburban acute care hospital and trauma center. She applied her business and nursing backgrounds as a Practice Manager to initiate, develop, and manage a suburban neurosurgical practice of MDs and an APRN where she was responsible for daily clinical and financial operations, interfaced with two hospital systems for clinical services, managed staff at three physical locations, communicated with law firms for litigation and expert witness services and achieved fiscal stability within six months of opening the practice. She has also been a critical care staff RN at suburban acute care trauma hospitals. Throughout her career trajectory she has developed expertise in TJC/CMS Standards, Organizational Development, Shared Governance, Quality Improvement, Fiscal Planning, and Critical Care.

She is a member of the American Heart/Stroke Association and reviews abstracts for, attends and speaks at the International Stroke Conference. She is a member of the American Association of Neurological Nurses and served on the steering committee to develop new Stroke Nurse Certification. She is a Founding Member of the Midwest Stroke Action Alliance & past facilitator of Midwest stroke coordinators and supporting networks.
I am so very thankful to the Illinois Nurses Foundation for granting me the Dr. Wendy Burgess Memorial Scholarship this year. This generous contribution has helped me to reduce some of the financial strain that accompanies graduate school. Having three college students in my household at one time has been a challenge! I am two semesters from completing my DNP, and I will be starting my research on Nurse Practitioner Perceived Readiness for Full Practice Authority in early 2019. As a nurse practitioner and advocate for the profession, this scholarship has allowed me to focus less on the fiscal pressure and more on the importance of my research, advocacy efforts, and nursing leadership. I will forever be grateful for this scholarship and am optimistic that my research will contribute to the body of evidence in support of advanced practice nursing.

Sincerely,
Julia C. Darley, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC
Scholarships are not just about financial assistance—they are a visible acknowledgement of the important work that nurses do. Your contribution is a way to help us ensure that we can continue to fund scholarly initiatives that promote the health of people and development of the nursing profession in Illinois.

We need you to tell your friends and family members about the important work we do and ask them to join us in helping to make a difference.

When you help one nurse you help many.

“Winning this scholarship has not only made a great impact on my life, it has given my family hope. The road to becoming a nurse has always been very uncertain, and stressful. There are many barriers to overcome, however, this scholarship has made that road more tangible, and more feasible. It encourages me to keep moving forward, and has taught me to not let uncertainty and fear hold me back from working towards my dreams.”

– Rocia Palacios

“I am immensely appreciative of the scholarship from the Illinois Nurses Foundation, it provided some much needed breathing space for my family as I balance my obligations as a husband, student, soldier, and working nurse. This peer to peer support from other nurses has formed a tangible link for me into a wider network of fellow professionals. Thank you!”

– Patrick O’Carroll, LPN, MSN student

“Juggling between school work and organizations, I was not able to obtain a part time job like many of my classmates. The Sonne scholarship alleviated some of my financial pressures, which allowed me to fully dedicate my time to serve in the organizations while still devoting due diligence in my academics. On top of being a first-generation immigrant, I was also the first in my family to go to college. This scholarship allowed me to focus my energy on the work I felt was most important for both my values in nursing as well as my career in academics and focus groups. I am very grateful to the Illinois Nurses Foundation and their nurses for assisting me in achieving this opportunity.”

– Phoebe Vuong

I am honored to have been selected to receive the Arthur L. Davis Scholarship from the Illinois Nurses Foundation. I am currently dedicating myself to achieving excellence in my PhD program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. It is my goal to become a nurse faculty member in the state of Illinois. I hope to become a leader in nursing education through teaching excellence, bringing my fifteen years of nursing practice and my research experience to the classroom. I hope to achieve my goal of bringing clinical practice and research to my students by remaining active as a researcher and clinician, while also being a full-time educator. The Arthur L. Davis Scholarship has helped defray important costs during my accelerated PhD program. I commend the Illinois Nurses Foundation’s commitment to supporting advanced nursing education and the development of nursing faculty in Illinois.

– Mary Hannan

Scholarships are not just about financial assistance–they are a visible acknowledgement of the important work that nurses do. Your contribution is a way to help us ensure that we can continue to fund scholarly initiatives that promote the health of people and development of the nursing profession in Illinois.

We need you to tell your friends and family members about the important work we do and ask them to join us in helping to make a difference.

When you help one nurse you help many.
2018 AWARD WINNERS

Hillary Crumlett  
BSN, MS, RN  
Katherine Hess  
MS, BSN, RN-BC  
Julie Johnson  
MS, RN, CPHON, CPN  
Lauren Underwood  
MSN/MPH, RN  
Christian Villanueva  
BSN, RN  

Jodi Cunningham  
RN, BSN, OCN  
Katherine De Los Trinos - Ocampo  
MAT, MSN, APRN, FNP-C  
Katie Koerner  
DNP, MBA, RN, CNML  

Heide Cygan  
DNP, RN, PHNA-BC  
Justin Zobrist  
RN, BSN, CEN, TNS  
Gwyneth Milbrath  
PhD, RN, MPH, CEN  

Katie Gonzalez  
MSN, RN, RN-BC  
Karen Jennings  
PhD, RN, APRN  
Kelsey Schmitt  
BSN, RN, CPN  

Arthur Zacharjasz  
MSN, RN  
Beata Palarz  
MSN, RN-BC, CNL  

Brandy Hatcher  
MSN, RN, CNL  
Abigail Sofian  
MSN, BSN, CPNP
Saint Xavier University School of Nursing and Health Sciences

Since 1935, Saint Xavier University has a long history of providing quality nursing education at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Today, the newly expanded School of Nursing and Health Sciences (SONHS) remains strongly committed to linking innovation and concern for community, and to providing basic and advanced nursing education programs, undergraduate and graduate programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders, as well as new undergraduate majors in Exercise Science, Sports and Fitness Management, and Gerontology.

In September 2018, the nursing program was honored by the National League for Nursing (NLN) as a Center of Excellence for the 2018-2023 term. SXU has held this prestigious designation continuously since 2007 for creating environments that enhance student learning and professional development.

For 2018, the online Master of Science in Nursing program was designated #1 by U.S. News & World Report. Saint Xavier offers 100% online MSN tracks in Clinical Leadership, Executive Leadership and Nurse Educator, as well as the MSN-Family Nurse Practitioner track which is offered in hybrid format.

In October 2018, the nursing program held its first White Coat Ceremony, at which sophomore nursing students were formally welcomed into the nursing program (see photo). This ceremony was supported by a grant from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, which provides grants to schools to help host their first White Coat Ceremony. The Foundation also supplies “Keeping Healthcare Human” lapel pins to students at all ceremonies. The pins serve as a visual reminder to students that in order to deliver the best care to their patients, compassion and empathy must be the hallmark of their clinical practice.

Also this year, the SXU Health Center moved to newly renovated and expanded space at the Driehaus Center on the corner of 103rd and Pulaski. The Health Center is a nurse practitioner-led primary care clinic that provides a variety of services for patient populations that include SXU students, faculty and staff as well as residents of the community.

Now joined with Nursing, the Communication Sciences and Disorders program has been educating future speech-language pathologists for nearly 60 years through its undergraduate program and its on-campus clinic, which currently serves more than 195 clients each semester. The graduate program, established 25 years ago, is fully accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

For more information about the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, please visit our website or call 773-298-3700.

https://www.sxu.edu/academics/colleges_schools/nursing-health-sciences/index.asp
UIC Nursing Expands Programs with Cook County Corrections

UIC College of Nursing student Jeremy Baker stands in front of eight men. They are seated on metal benches, wearing khaki prison scrubs with DOC—Department of Corrections—stamped in large, black letters on their backs.

Two heavy metal doors and a Cook County Sheriff’s Office deputy separate the group from the hallway.

Baker is leading an education session on stress reduction. He is one of 18 UIC Nursing master’s degree students who, during the spring 2018 semester, completed a clinical rotation in Cook County Jail.

The public health practicum is one of three correctional health initiatives of the UIC College of Nursing enriched by a one-year grant from the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation, one of the nation’s leading philanthropies dedicated to advancing health through nursing.

The Innovations in Care Catalyst Award has allowed the college to:

- provide health education to detainees at Cook County Jail with weekly visits from graduate-level students;
- meet with individuals who are on early release at a Cook County support center, sharing health information and helping them navigate to primary and mental healthcare at the UIC College of Nursing’s Mile Square Health Center in Chicago’s Humboldt Park neighborhood;
- create a web-based module that can qualify for continuing education credit for faculty and students from colleges and universities focused on healthcare delivery and health issues pertinent to a correctional facility and population.

The intent of the programs is to close gaps in healthcare for incarcerated populations, both by reaching detainees who are still inside Cook County Jail and also by encouraging them to seek care at the college’s FQHC clinic once they’ve been released, says Susan Corbridge, PhD, APRN, FAANP, associate dean for practice and community partnerships. The educational module will help spread best practices to healthcare faculty and students across the country.

Corbridge says recently released detainees are especially at risk for health problems, suffering from high rates of substance abuse, chronic illness and infectious disease.

“I love working with this population because we get extended time with them, week after week,” says Kristen Hanauer, MS ’17, who did a rotation in the jail as a student and now works with the college on the grant. “If you can educate them on one or two aspects of primary care, it can change their health outcomes for the rest of their life. The main thing is to empower them so when they aren’t here, they continue to find healthcare.”

“Ninety-five percent of people who are incarcerated will eventually be released back to the community,” Corbridge says. “They have limited access to healthcare within that first year of release. They use the ER a lot. They also have a higher mortality rate during that time.”

At their weekly visits to the jail, UIC nursing students conduct an informal needs assessment with the detainees to know which health topics they want to learn more about. The following week, the students present information on the topics—things like nutrition, aging or STIs—to three groups of detainees.

The UIC College of Nursing program serves as a community health practicum for MS students like Amanda Cunningham.
Nurse Specialty Plate is finally here!

The Nurse Specialty Plate is now available on the Secretary of State’s - Pick a Plate page! www.cyberdriveillinois.com

We have waited so long and worked so hard for this day and it is finally here! There are about 3000 plates on the road now – great start but we know that soon there will be many more.

By purchasing this plate you are supporting the Illinois Nurses Foundation and the work we do and also proclaiming your pride in being a NURSE!

For every plate purchased $20 is donated to the Foundation. We are excited to begin funding grants for nurse-initiated projects and award additional scholarships.

PLEASE buy your plate today!

Illinois Nurses Foundation License Plate Grant Program

The INF Grants Committee proudly announces a new program that will help fund proposals for special projects and research by nurses and nursing students in Illinois.

The Illinois Nurses Foundation will fund grants to registered professional nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, and nursing students to advance professional nursing practice; enhance safe, quality patient care; and promote innovative solutions. The lead applicant (primary investigator/project manager) must be an Illinois resident. If the applicant is submitting the grant request on behalf of a healthcare or educational organization, the organization must have a presence in Illinois. For example, a multi-state hospital system must have at least one hospital or other type of institutional presence in Illinois that will participate in the project, if funded. Likewise, a nursing program in a college or university seeking funds must be located in Illinois.

The initial request for proposals (RFP) during the first quarter of 2019 will be for small grants of up to $2000.00. This also includes seed grants of up to $500.00 for small demonstration projects or background work to enable the applicant to apply for a larger grant on the basis of the preliminary work funded by the seed grant.

The INF Grants Committee will send out an RFP each quarter for the small grants program. Later in 2019, the large grant program will be launched to offer grants of up to $10,000.00. These large grants will be solicited twice a year starting in 2020.

Funding for this new grant program comes from the funds that are generated for the Illinois Nurses Foundation by the sales of the nurse license plates in Illinois.

Watch for an announcement of the launch of the small grants request for proposals in the first quarter of 2019. Information on the policies of the grant program and the application procedure will be announced at that time. The applications will be submitted online and will be subject to blind review by the INF Grants Committee members.

The announcement will be launched on the INF and ANA-Illinois websites, via social media, and by email. The Grants Committee members are excited to launch this new effort to support innovation and scholarly work by nurses (and nursing students) to shape the future of healthcare delivery, to support innovations in education for nurses at all levels, and to strengthen nursing leadership wherever nurses practice their profession.

Karen Kelly, EdD, RN, NEA-BC
Chairperson, INF Grant Review Committee
We have a new name –
the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center!

When Governor Rauner signed Public Act 100-0513 into law last fall, changes to the Illinois Nurse Practice Act included a few changes for the Illinois Center for Nursing. Perhaps most notably is our new name, Illinois Nursing Workforce Center (INWC), which reflects the focus on the nursing workforce.

The Nursing Workforce Center was initially established through legislative action in 2006, and placed within the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) to address issues of supply and demand in the nursing profession. Comprised of eleven members with diverse expertise, the Nursing Workforce Center is administered by a managing director. Since its inception, the INWC has established multiple coalitions with regional, state, and national organizations to address the statutory mandate.

The Illinois Nursing Workforce Center is working with industry professionals and educational institutions to ensure that Illinois has a nursing workforce necessary to meet the demands of a growing and aging population. Visit the INWC website, www.nursing.illinois.gov

National Association of Hispanic Nurses-Illinois

The National Association of Hispanic Nurses-Illinois Chapter is a leading nursing organization at the state and national level. We are a professional non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of academic attainment and professional development of Hispanic nurses. Our chapter is now the 3rd largest in the U.S. and has been nationally recognized as exemplary for leadership, community outreach, and through our mentoring of the next generation of Hispanic Nurses. We continue to engage in policy and advocacy efforts to advance the nursing profession and help support our members become nurse leaders. We’re actively reshaping healthcare in the Hispanic community. To learn more about NAHN-Illinois please visit our webpage www.nahnillinois.org.

NAHN-Illinois Board of Directors pictured (left to right): Isis Reyes, MSN, AG-ACNP-BC, Secretary; Susana Gonzalez, MHA, MSN, CNML, Immediate Past President; Dr. Elizabeth Aquino, PhD, RN, President; Guadalupe Hernandez, MSN, FNP-BC, President Elect; Gloria E. Barrera, MSN, RN, PEL-CSN, Treasurer.
IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Mary M. Lebold, EdD, MSN, RN, (nee Oesterle), Age 80, Born into Eternal Life on November 9, 2018. Beloved wife of the late Richard J. Loving mother of Lisa (Paul) Zemgulys and Susan (Jeffrey) Markvart. Dear grandma of Ryne, James, Jeremy, Kyle, and Leah. Devoted sister of Jane (Wayne) Thackston, and Ralph (Mary) Oesterle. Mary was an Alumna of St. Xavier University School of Nursing (1960), Earned her Master’s Degree at University of Illinois, and her EdD at Northern Illinois University. Dr. Lebold was the Dean of Nursing at St. Xavier University School of Nursing from 1990-2004, Served on Board of Directors for Alivio Medical Center, and Director of the Chicago Bilingual Nurse Consortium. Dr. Lebold is fondly remembered by all those whose lives she touched in the field of Nursing Education and for working tirelessly to earn grant monies in support of the St. Xavier Nursing Program.

I think I first heard of Mary’s work about 20 years ago when, as Dean of St. Xavier nursing she was working-leading a coalition of mostly Chicago area nursing schools in setting standards and guidelines in support of articulating RNs from associate degree programs into and through RN-BSNc programs. I do not think that I met Mary until she was appointed to the Illinois Nursing workforce Center Board of Directors in approximately 2010. She is one of those people that does not speak a lot at board meetings, but when she did, she can turn a discussion with a few succinct targeted sentences. I think that Mary had always fought to advance the nursing profession. She fought to advance nursing in an equitable fashion, never to advance with one benefiting more than another.

St. Xavier University was one of the first Illinois nursing programs to offer a bachelor’s degree in nursing. This was before Mary was dean, but while she was SXU Dean, the school did establish the first LPN-to-BSN program. Mary talked about being in discussions about how wonderful health care is, that one can “boot-strap” one’s way from CNA to DNP. But Mary was firm that having to take so many steps could also kill you, so we have to find ways to keep moving people forward at a pace that allows the individual to balance work-family-continuing education.

I do not have the dates, but she was Dean of the SXU nursing program for a long time; she supported and mentored many of the faculty.

Mary has been involved with the Chicago Bilingual Nurse Consortium since its inception in 2002. The CBNC purpose is to facilitate, through education and training, the transition of foreign educated nurses who are licensed in another country to Illinois RN licensure. CBNC used to be supported at Mercy Hospital, it is now supported by Chicago City Colleges. One of the things that Mary accomplished through the CBNC is to include in the Illinois Nurse Practice Act the provision for the Puerto Rican internship (not exactly sure of the title). This was included in the 2007 NPA and the provision still remains; I am not certain how many employers have participated in this program. Mary was CBNC Executive Director after she retired from SXU for about 5 years; she wrote and CBNC benefitted from a couple of multi-year grants. CBNC continues with grant support.

Alivio Medical Center: this was Mary’s passion, health care is a right. She worked hard to maintain this health care provider on the near west side of Chicago. She worked to minimize barriers while treating people with dignity and respect. I do not have the details of Alivio, but when she would speak of Alivio her voice would get excited, not as excited as when she would talk of her family, especially her grandkids, but she would get excited.

Mary’s arms are open so wide, so she can embrace us all. She has advanced nursing education; established a place for quality health care for those with limited resources; supported transitioning nurses educated and licensed in other countries. she did it all.

Linda B. Roberts, MSN, RN
Saint Xavier nursing faculty join INF in paying tribute to Dr. Mary M. Lebold, EdD, MSN, RN, who was born into Eternal Life on November 9, 2018. Dr. Lebold was an Alumna of Saint Xavier College School of Nursing (1960), earned her Master’s Degree at University of Illinois, and her EdD at Northern Illinois University. Dr. Lebold returned to Saint Xavier University as faculty for many years, and eventually served as Dean of the School of Nursing from 1990-2004. Dr. Lebold was well-known for her community outreach and collaborations with other organizations. She served on the Board of Directors for Alivio Medical Center, and was co-founder and for a time, served as Director of the Chicago Bilingual Nurse Consortium (CBNC). Dr. Lebold is fondly remembered by all those whose lives she touched in the field of Nursing Education and for working tirelessly to gain grant support for Saint Xavier’s nursing program and CBNC. Her legacy lives on with her daughters Lisa (Paul) Zemgulys and Susan (Jeffrey) Markvart, her grandchildren Ryne, James, Jeremy, Kyle, and Leah her sister Jane (Wayne) Thackston, and brother Ralph (Mary) Oesterle.

Mary Lebold’s legacy stems from her vision and excellent leadership ability which was enhanced by a sincere, caring heart. She positively impacted the lives and careers of nurses from throughout the world as an educator, and thereby affected the lives of all those in their care. Mary was always generous with her time and shared her wisdom and resources with us at the Chicago Bilingual Nurse Consortium as both an Executive Director and as a member of the Board of Directors. We miss her, but realize that Mary’s spirit will continue to influence our work with Internationally Educated Nurses. Thank you Mary.

Dr. Mary Lebold was my chosen Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) consultant when I became dean at University of St. Francis’s College of Nursing & Allied Health. She was a low technology, yellow legal pad consultant who provided an enormous amount of edits and substantive rationale for her feedback. Mary then became my dean mentor, advisory board member and friend. We shared many breakfasts at the pancake house on 127th & Cicero for years. I appreciated her making time for me and sharing her sage advice. She was a nurse’s nurse!

With Dr. Mary Lebold’s passing, nursing lost a wise and compassionate leader. I considered Mary both a professional colleague and personal friend. Our professional paths most often crossed though organizational work, most recently as fellow members on the Illinois Nursing Center Advisory Board. I was always impressed by her ability to point out the most salient points when we discussed issues before the Board. Her passionate work on behalf of nurses from other parts of the world was a defining perspective that she always brought to the table. We became friends as Mary shared her counsel on family and health concerns and our shared love of our canine companions! She also had the best fun emails that often brightened the day when they arrived! Mary was a devoted caregiver of family and her pet dog. I truly respected Mary as a person and as a nurse and am sad knowing I will no longer be able to reach out to her for her wise counsel.

– Maureen Shekleton, PhD, RN, DPNAP, FAAN
Immediate Past President, Illinois Nurses Foundation

I was a faculty member in the School of Nursing at St. Xavier University (then College) during part of the time Mary was Dean. She was a champion of the School of Nursing and nursing generally. She was kind, professional, and never seemed to tire of her role and the many responsibilities she had while a faculty member and Dean at the school. Her contributions to the community and nursing associations were also outstanding. Mary has left a wonderful legacy to her family, Saint Xavier University, and all who knew her, both professionally and personally.

– Nancy J. Brent
Advisory Council Member, Illinois Nurses Foundation

A special tribute is extended to a dear, long-term colleague and friend, Dr. Mary Lebold, who lived to serve so many of us throughout her professional life. Our previous history together spanned many years, including those at Saint Xavier University, as deans, at various state based-committee activities and our frequent lunch gatherings. Dr Lebold’s caring, compassionate, innovative research, educator, and administrative skills were freely shared with all of us who served with her. Thankfully, we will always remember Dr. Lebold’s life as making an indelible impact and blessing to us and our profession.

– Alma J. Labunski, PhD., M.S., R.N
Consultant, Educational Challenges Within a Global Culture Consulting Services
Retired Dean and Professor, North Park University
ANA set the stage by declaring 2018 the Year of Advocacy, and we have several notable accomplishments to share. We are proud to highlight that for the first time in history a registered nurse was elected to Congress from the Land of Lincoln. Lauren Underwood, an RN and member from Naperville was elected to serve the 14th Congressional District. Thanks to numerous nurses across Illinois who participated in the political process, we made a difference.

This year has also been marked by several accomplishments in Springfield that were made possible with your support. ANA-Illinois advocated for numerous pieces of legislation that were successfully signed into law. A bill was passed that requires hospitals to provide trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) nurses, while another requires the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services to provide payment for telepsychiatry, including Psychiatric Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Legislation was signed into law that strengthened protections for healthcare workers against violence, and further protections were implemented to ensure adequate access for mental health services.

Our work will continue as we collaborate with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to complete implementation of the Nurse Practice Act through administrative rules to ensure that nursing practice is not hindered by unnecessary regulatory burdens.

On September 20th, ANA-Illinois facilitated a meeting with nurse educators from baccalaureate and associate degree programs across the state. The meeting resulted in open dialogue about strategies that are successful and barriers to meeting the nursing educational needs in Illinois to improve health equity. We will work together with the group to develop and deliver a report to the General Assembly regarding the state of nursing education in Illinois in 2019. ANA-Illinois leadership strongly believes that it is essential that nursing determine the next steps and that nurses remain the voice for our profession whenever there are any changes to nursing education.

ANA-Illinois also reached a milestone with over 4,000 members with the sixth year of our existence as organization. This year we have an aggressive plan of educational programs that will be provided both in person and via webinar in 2019.

We are thankful for the continued partnership with our organizational affiliates, the Chicago Chapter National Black Nurses Association, Illinois Association of Colleges of Nursing, Illinois Association of School Nurses, Illinois Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing, National Association of Hispanic Nurses- Illinois, and Philippine Nurses Association of Illinois.

Finally, I’d like to congratulate the newly elected Student Nurses Association of Illinois Board of Directors who took office in October 2018. These talented students will soon be joining the profession as the next generation of nursing leaders. I look forward to seeing what these individuals will accomplish in their careers.

President: Kirsten Mueller
First Vice President: Kristy Britton
Second Vice President: Anna Sheen
Secretary: Muroo Hamed
Treasurer: Jenifer Vinezeano
Marketing Director: Reide Frakes
Legislation Director: Vanessa Soto

ANA-Illinois is proud of the work accomplished in 2018 and looks forward to another successful year in 2019.

Thank you for your support,

Dan Fraczkowski MSN, RN-BCPresident, ANA-Illinois
@NurseDanF
This last year has seen tremendous growth in the association and it has been an exciting opportunity helping shape our association for the future, while creating a member-centered, relevant, responsive and value-based membership. We’ve grown in strength, influence and numbers, forged new partnerships and nurtured past collaborations, all while continuing to build on the groundwork we’ve laid since ANA-Illinois was formed in 2012!

2018 was the “Year of Advocacy” and we worked in partnership with the American Nurses Association to bring the advocacy efforts of nurses to the forefront. The American Nurses Association (ANA) “believes that advocacy is a pillar of nursing. Nurses instinctively advocate for their patients, in their workplaces, and in their communities; but legislative and political advocacy is no less important to advancing the profession and patient care.” ANA further states that “…through championing the nursing profession, nurses give a voice to the essential role that they play in advancing access to high-quality, affordable care. With energetic participation in advocacy, every nurse can help the profession to improve and move to higher levels.”

Our priority statewide advocacy efforts included:

**ENDING WORKPLACE VIOLENCE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS**

Physical and verbal abuse against nurses, and other health care workers, is a serious problem in hospitals, clinics, and all health care settings across Illinois and the country. In fact, it has been reported that health care workers are more likely to be exposed to violence than prison guards or police officers.

The American Nurses Association has a “Zero Tolerance” policy for workplace violence and bullying. ANA reports that 1 in 4 nurses had been physically assaulted while at work by a patient or a patient’s family member, and up to half had been bullied in some manner by either a peer or by a person in a higher level of authority. We must adopt a Zero Tolerance policy for all health care workers in all places where health care is delivered! We must work to create and maintain a culture of safety.

The sad reality is that violence against nurses and other health care workers will never completely end, in part because many patients lack the cognitive ability to control themselves, especially in stressful environments like emergency departments.

That is why health care workers and administrators need to take universal precautions to prevent violence—much like we do to prevent contracting infectious diseases. If we take the stance that everyone has the potential to be violent, then all health care workers will interact with people differently and be more likely to identify risks and be better prepared to protect themselves. To achieve these objectives ANA-Illinois worked with other stakeholders to refine a bill introduced in the 99th General Assembly.

The Health Care Violence Prevention Act, (Public Act 100-1051), was passed by the General Assembly and Governor Bruce Rauner signed the Act into law on August 24, 2018. The Act includes training requirements and whistleblower protection. To address the risks of violence against nurses and other health care workers, Illinois hospitals and other employers of health care workers will be required to comply with workplace violence training and related safety requirements, effective January 1, 2019.

It includes a multi-prong approach to addressing workplace violence against nurses. In particular, health care providers will be required to create a workplace violence prevention program that not only complies with OSHA guidelines for such a program, but they must also post notices stating that verbal aggression will not be tolerated and that physical assault will be reported to law enforcement.
In the event of a workplace violence incident initiated by a patient or visitor, employers will be required to offer immediate post-incident services to the health care worker who is directly involved. Such services include acute treatment and access to psychological services.

In addition, employers cannot discourage health care workers from contacting law enforcement or filing a police report because of a workplace violence incident. If a health care worker files a police report against a patient or individual because of workplace violence, they are required to provide notice to management within three days after filing the report.

The new law also states that the Illinois Whistleblower Act applies to health care providers and their employees with respect to actions taken to implement or enforce compliance with the Health Care Violence Prevention Act.

TAKING THE LEAD – THE FUTURE OF NURSING EDUCATION IN ILLINOIS

ANA-Illinois invited all Deans and Directors of Nursing programs (ADN, BSN, Masters Entry) to join us for a dinner meeting on September 20th in Schaumburg. The event was well attended with 60+ individuals present from 39 different nursing programs in the state.

ANA-Illinois knows that it is essential that nursing determine next steps and that nurses remain the voice for our profession. We know at a minimum that we need to know what agreements/partnerships exist, who has what agreement/partnership, challenges faced with those agreements/partnerships and faculty vacancies and how that impacts the institution’s ability to accept applicants.

The goal of this initial meeting was to begin gathering input from Nursing programs in the state regarding their needs. We are currently working with all involved to develop a report that will include recommendations that will be presented to the General Assembly in 2019. We know that without a strong educational system we will not be able to meet the needs of our state to prepare well-rounded registered nurses who can help to improve Illinois’ health equity issues.

ANA-Illinois made it clear during the General Assembly session this year that it is not enough that nursing be at the table, but the profession must lead any changes to nursing education or practice. ANA-Illinois leadership strongly believes that it is essential that nursing determine the next steps and that nurses remain the voice for our profession.

As we wrap up the year of advocacy let us remember “YOU ARE THE EXPERT”. Legislators are elected officials who come from many walks of life with widely varying experience and knowledge of the health care system. You are the expert when it comes to the nursing profession and the health of your patients and communities. These policy makers care what you think. Your point of view is important to legislators as they craft the laws and regulations that affect your profession and patients. You are in a unique position to get involved in policy making and advocacy. Nurses are always speaking on behalf of their patients’ welfare and this process is exactly what is effective in dealing with the legislature: gathering information, assessing the effects, providing a plan and speaking out to make changes. KEEP IT SIMPLE AND CLEAR, state your position clearly and then be available to either answer any questions the legislator might have or offer to find out the answer to any question you don’t know. It is alright to say “I don’t know the answer” …never fake it! Offer to get the information to them as quickly as possible and always follow up with the legislator.

ANA-Illinois believes we need to do more than talk to legislators and attend meetings – we need to be on boards and advisory groups, influencing the overall landscape of healthcare delivery among residents who depend upon the knowledge and expertise of nurses. In the last six years we have worked closely with the nursing specialty and minority nurses associations/organizations in Illinois to develop a plan of how we can work together.

We are asking nurse administrators, educators and staff nurses to come together to solve some of our workplace issues. THIS is the essence of the ANA-Illinois – an organization formed to move nurses forward; to get us together, to learn from each other and to problem solve.
This is the second year of Illinois Nurses Foundation (INF) funding of the academic-practice pilot projects in the public health arena. The primary goal of this project continues to be to enhance the practice impact on the health of the public and to recruit and teach the public health nurses of the future. The pilot project grants are a formalized effort at creating and strengthening partnerships between local health departments and schools of nursing.

Academic-Practice partnerships have recently been the focus of much national attention for nursing practice in general. National models are being promoted, but there are fewer robust examples of academic-practice partnerships in public health nursing than in acute care nursing. The Illinois Public Health Nurse Leaders Workgroup identified a goal of: teaching local public health nurses (PHN) and their academic counterparts about the value of academic-practice partnerships, and providing structured opportunities for their development in the state. This goal was seen as critical to strengthening the educational opportunities for current PHN staff and encouraging new nurses to consider careers in public health nursing.

The pilot-project priorities continue to be promotion of the Culture of Health with a focus on population health, getting students interested in the population focused skills and knowledge embodied in public health, and seeing PHN as a valuable nursing role. The student pilot projects routinely supported organizational year-end objectives, so the full impact of a project might not be measured until after the students were gone. The focus of the FY2018 work was funding of pilot projects of academic-practice dyads in public health or community health settings.

During the 2018 Spring semester nearly $5,000 was distributed amongst 5 academic-practice pilot projects at four universities, two county health departments, two community settings and one elementary school. Projects included:

**Cook County Department of Public Health Oak Forest/St. Xavier University School of Nursing**

*Title:* Intimate partner violence awareness among culturally diverse populations in suburban Cook County

*Grant Leads:* Charlene Bermele, DNP, RN, CNE;
Assistant Professor, Saint Xavier University
Kathy L. Dunn, MSN, RN;
Clinic Coordinator, Cook County Department of Public Health

*PI:* Charlene Bermele, bermele@sxu.edu

**Madison County Health Department/Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE)**

*Title:* Wellness promotion and screening across the lifespan in Madison County

*Grant Collaborators:* Amanda Pruitt, Madison county Health Department
Deborah Knoll, Personal Health Division Manager
Theresa Collins, Senior Services Plus

*PI:* Ann M. Popkess, RN, PhD; Associate Professor and Department Chair, Family Health and Community Health, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

**Will Grundy Medical Clinic, Will County/Lewis University**

*Title:* Salsacize plus – development and implementation of a replicable model wherein participants will engage in an enjoyable method for increasing physical activity and chronic disease management education

*Grant Collaborators:* Linda Arnold, MS, RN; Assistant Professor, Lewis University College of Nursing and Health Professions; Parish Nurse, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lisle, Illinois
Nanci Reiland, MSN, RN, APHN-BC; Assistant Professor, Lewis University College of Nursing and Health Professions; Consultant, Will County Community Health Center

*PI:* Linda Arnold, MS, RN; Assistant Professor, Lewis University College of Nursing and Health Professions

**UIC Mile Square Health Center Humboldt Park/University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Nursing**

*Title:* Innovative patient-led diabetes support group

*PI:* Kelly Vaez, DNP, FNP-BC; Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Nursing

*Project Resource:* Puerto-Rican Cultural Center; Iglesia de Dios Region Norte Central Hispana; Casa Central; Chicago Public Library Richard M. Daley Branch

**St. John Fischer School*/
St. Xavier University School of Nursing**

*Title:* St. John Fischer School training to save students and staff from allergic reaction

*PI:* Mary Ann Wolfenson, RN, DNP, IL-PEL; Assistant Professor, St. Xavier University School of Nursing

*Trainees:* Both teachers at St. John Fischer (24 participants) and nursing students from St. Xavier University (6 students)

*Trainor:* Mary Ann Wolfenson, DNP, IL- PEL; Assistant Professor, SXU