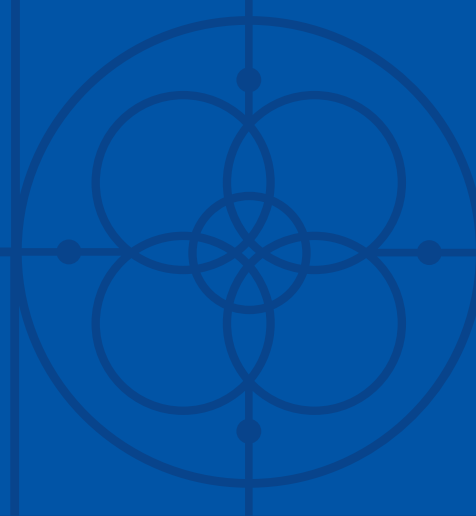


EST. 1971



COLLEGE OF NURSING



A Bold Vision for Our Future



A Vision in Blue

for the College of Nursing

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

CATHERINE M. TODERO, PhD, RN, FAAN, BSN'72
DEAN, COLLEGE OF NURSING
VICE PROVOST,
HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUSES

At the beginning of my career, I learned the Jesuit principle of *cura personalis*, or “caring for the whole individual,” and I’ve tried to exemplify the philosophy ever since. As a surgical intensive-care and trauma nurse, I tailored care to each person’s specific needs and developed treatment plans for healing the body, mind, and soul. That holistic approach is the driving force behind my work as the dean of the College of Nursing at Creighton University.

Creighton University is now the largest Catholic health professions educator in the nation, and the College of Nursing is growing rapidly. We’ve seen historic enrollment numbers in our traditional program; the addition of a 3+1 program on our Central Nebraska campus in Grand Island; and the launch of our accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in Phoenix. The growth is proving successful. The inaugural cohort of Creighton nurses from the Phoenix-based program had a 100% pass rate on the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination). The second cohort was nearly double the size of the first class. And our students at the Grand Island campus are delivering much-needed nursing care to the rural communities of central Nebraska.

For the first time in our history, and for the past several years, the College of Nursing enrolled more than 1,000 nursing students—a testament to the strength of our programs and nimble response to society’s need for well-educated nurses.

Now more than ever, Creighton University will influence the future of nursing through the graduates we educate, the teaching strategies and programs we innovate, and the faculty conducting scholarly work at our three campuses.

As we plan for that future and cultivate new initiatives to further expand our approach to education, service, research, and scholarship, we will continue to align with traditional Jesuit values: to treat the whole person, to find God in all we do, and to share our gift—the gift of care—with those who need it most.

With your support of **Forward Blue**, we will continue our commitment to educational excellence; to our Jesuit, Catholic traditions; and to our students and alumni, as we continually redefine what it means to be a Creighton nurse.

Catherine Todero



Growth Guided by Goodness

As educators, it's our job to guide passionate nursing students toward spiritually fulfilling and service-oriented careers. That is why our growth will always remain grounded in the Jesuit, Catholic values upon which we were founded.

Here we welcome graduates who dream of serving others, including marginalized communities, through volunteer work and advocacy.

We offer opportunities to help the city's most underserved citizens through our partnerships with the Monen Healthcare Clinic (previously known as the Porto Urgent Care Clinic) housed in the Heart Ministry Center in Omaha, Creighton's COVID-19

Community Vaccine Clinic in partnership with the Douglas County Health Department, and other charitable organizations.

We empower our students through strong values and a hands-on, dedicated approach to learning. Through grants and funding, we bolster the work of our faculty and scholars. Through our internal community, we care for the people of Omaha, Phoenix, Grand Island, and beyond.

We continue to graduate some of the most sought-after, interprofessionally collaborative professionals in the industry, and, with your investment, we will only go further.

By the Numbers



1,130

TOTAL NURSING STUDENTS



8,800+

COLLEGE OF NURSING ALUMNI



244

Preceptorship Hours

COMPLETED BY STUDENTS

Among the highest of any nursing program in the nation



100%

2020 NURSE PRACTITIONER
CERTIFICATION PASS RATE



**96% NCLEX
Pass Rate**

IN 2020

*For Creighton traditional BSN students
(national average is 90%)*



3 Campuses

OMAHA, PHOENIX,
GRAND ISLAND



**9,000 Treated
Annually**

FROM OMAHA PUBLIC AND PAROCHIAL
SCHOOL STUDENTS AND STAFF
*through health assessments
and education*



**99% BSN Alumni
Employed**

ATTENDING GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL
SCHOOL OR DOING VOLUNTEER WORK
within 6 months after graduation



#10 Ranking

OF THE FAMILY NURSE
PRACTITIONER TRACK
by U.S. News & World Report



**1st
in Nebraska**

TO OFFER THE
DOCTOR OF NURSING
PRACTICE DEGREE



One of the 1st

ACCELERATED BSN PROGRAMS
LAUNCHED IN THE NATION



Top 100

DOCTOR OF NURSING PROGRAM
IN THE NATION
by U.S. News & World Report



Going Where Care is Needed

Even when Abdul Tholley was in the thick of the 12-month Accelerated Nursing Program at Creighton's Phoenix campus, he still found the time to volunteer where he could. Even if it meant leaving the country.

Once a month, a group of Phoenix and Tucson medical professionals, including students, took the four-hour drive to the Mexican fishing and resort city of Puerto Peñasco to set up a weekend clinic. During one year, Abdul joined the mission trip, and the experience proved both eye-opening and life-affirming.

"People came into the clinic from all over and for every reason," he says. "Women in labor, patients with heart problems and medication issues and broken legs."

Many patients were seeking care they couldn't get elsewhere, and Abdul got to help them. In one case, a doctor asked Abdul to do the assessment with a pregnant woman whose water had broken a week prior but who had not yet given birth. Abdul, who does not speak Spanish, asked questions, and the doctor translated.

"It was just one of those moments where you realize, 'I know what I'm doing. This is working. This is where I'm meant to be,'" he says.

Abdul was accepted to a handful of schools across the country, but Creighton's curriculum, academic reputation for excellence, and financial support made it his top choice for pursuing his second degree.

For his final preceptorship assignment in the program, Abdul was paired with a nurse at Valleywise Health's Pediatric Emergency Department. He was thrilled to explore emergency pediatrics, one of the many possibilities a nursing degree affords.

Abdul grew up inspired by the nurses who worked and lived in his home. His mother taught him how rewarding it was to be involved in holistic patient care. His grandmother's home health nurse showed him firsthand what a nurse can do to empower a family.

Likewise, Abdul has seen what a family can do to empower a nurse.

Abdul earned the prestigious Stephanie, BSN'84, and David Scott Scholarship, which the Scotts established in 2011.

Without the scholarship, enrolling in the accelerated nursing program might not have been an option for Abdul. Without it, he might not have ended up exactly where he said he's meant to be.

"It's so important to have good future nurses like Abdul in Phoenix. He is kind, engaged, and easily develops rapport. We were thrilled to have him in the program."

— HEZ NAYLOR, MSN, FNP-BC, AP-PMN
SENIOR NURSE PRACTITIONER AND INSTRUCTOR,
ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER,
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NURSING



WHY ARE SCHOLARSHIPS IMPORTANT?

There is no limit to what a bright, talented, and hardworking student can accomplish in the field of nursing when given the opportunity.

Our scholarships allow students to break the barrier to entry, opening a world of possibility with a hands-on educational approach and expert faculty guidance. Through philanthropy, we offer students and faculty the ability to attend courses, conduct and present research, and study abroad. Scholarships help build a trusted representation of our institution through accreditation, and allow for a diverse group of students with different backgrounds to become the guiding figures of the future of health care.

THE INTEGRAL INTERPROFESSIONAL



JOAN LAPPE, PhD, RN, FAAN, MS'85 ▶
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF RESEARCH,
DR. C.C. AND MABEL L. CRISS AND
DRS. GILBERT AND CLINTON BEIRNE
ENDOWED CHAIR IN NURSING

Joan Lappe, PhD, RN, FAAN, MS'85, is an important figure within the College of Nursing.

On second thought, the word “important” does not fully do justice to defining Dr. Lappe’s work, advocacy, and research; “integral” might be a more apt description of her significance to the College of Nursing.

Dr. Lappe, who holds dual appointments in the College of Nursing and the Osteoporosis Research Center (within the School of Medicine), began mentoring faculty members when she joined the Creighton family in the mid-1980s. Over the course of her career, Dr. Lappe has earned more than \$15 million in external funding from the National Institutes of Health and other sources.

An internationally accomplished researcher, Dr. Lappe was named associate dean of research in the College of Nursing in 2015, bringing leadership and focus to the entire nursing-research enterprise at Creighton.

“Having worked in both schools, I see so much opportunity for interprofessional research,” Dr. Lappe says. “But we need money to fund time for faculty members who are so committed to their teaching and service that they don’t have time to get started.”

An extramurally funded project, led by Meghan Potthoff, PhD, BSN'01, APRN-NP, proved her right. The goal of the clinical program—a collaboration among CHI Health, the College of Nursing, the School of Medicine, the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, and the Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research—was to determine whether a holistic, all-in approach to care would improve outcomes for high-risk patients. The answer? A resounding “yes.” Results of the study, published in *The Annals of Family Medicine*, showed a decrease in emergency room visits (16%) and hospitalizations (18%), a nearly 50% reduction in patient costs and more than \$4 million in annual savings in comparison to care without a collaborative model.

“This project has been recognized by the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Collaboration—which funded about 16 projects—and was selected as one of the five best, as far as outcomes,” Dr. Lappe says.

“Our strong interest in developing collaborative care will improve patient outcomes. Creighton is unique in that we house all the health professions—from nursing, medicine, pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy and dentistry, to social work—so we are poised for great success in bringing people together and collaborating with our health system partners.”

Getting more faculty and students involved in research begins with the help of our alumni and friends. Philanthropic support is necessary to develop even more modern approaches to nursing and education. Through endowed chairs, research grants, and funding for our Center for Faculty Innovation, Research, and Education (FIRE), private support will help the College of Nursing continue to move forward as one of the leading universities developing clinical care research. This support sparks innovation and novel ideas that, in turn, create larger opportunities to uncover funding and add new knowledge to the world.



THE CL WERNER CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES EDUCATION

- ◆ The 135,000-square-foot facility is expected to open in fall 2023. It will cost \$75 million.
- ◆ About 5,900 students, faculty and staff will use the building each year.

The CL Werner Center for Health Sciences Education marks a bold new era for Creighton’s health sciences enterprise. The facility is being designed around the model of interprofessional education, which draws on all health sciences disciplines to treat the whole person, resulting in lowered costs and better outcomes for patients.

For nursing students, the new facility will mean a state-of-the-art simulation center and classrooms and more opportunities for collaboration with other professions.

“The expanded space will improve the richness of the learning experience for everyone,” said Catherine Todero, PhD, RN, FAAN, BSN'72, dean of the College of Nursing and vice provost for the University’s Health Sciences Campuses. “Bringing everyone together helps us better appreciate each other’s disciplinary perspectives, which ultimately benefits our patients and improves outcomes.”

FIRE FUELS FACULTY RESEARCH

At the College of Nursing, we teach every student and faculty member to strive for *magis*, or “more;” to search for better treatment options, build stronger collaborations, question new approaches to care, and find answers through interdisciplinary research.

This is the guiding principle behind the Center for Faculty Innovation, Research, and Education (FIRE), Creighton’s virtual center for clinical nursing research improvement spearheaded by Dean Catherine Todero. While medical practitioners and scientists conduct research in laboratories and other highly controlled environments, nursing research often takes place in clinical settings—with real patients and real outcomes. Through donor investments, the College of Nursing will build more opportunities for research, while helping our faculty progress from educators to endowed researchers and industry experts.

The Center for FIRE represents an ambitious concept designed to elevate the culture of research within the College of Nursing, and will help with paying for release time, securing seed funding, accessing experts, and attracting valuable new hires.

We are one of the region’s largest nursing colleges, currently enrolling more than 1,000 students in baccalaureate, master’s, and DNP programs. Our mission inspires us to educate strong health allies for the future and offer them more in every way. That means providing an education based on modern health care trends, and opportunities to publish work alongside skilled researchers—and that’s only the beginning.



MAGIS

We challenge faculty and students to strive for excellence in all that they do, to strengthen our investment in the community by improving health care through research, and to accelerate innovation by infusing research at every level.



WOMEN AND MEN FOR AND WITH OTHERS

Teaching, service, and scholarship are integral to our approach to education and health care. By sharing discoveries with the world through the Center for FIRE, we can better inform—and transform—the nurse practitioners of the future into leaders of holistic health care.



◀ **MEGHAN POTTHOFF**
PhD, BSN’01, APRN-NP
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NURSING,
INAUGURAL LENKE SCHOLAR

INAUGURAL LENKE SCHOLAR

The Lenke Scholar is one aspect of the Center for FIRE. The center supports top experts, researchers, and visiting scholars who focus on critical issues in the nursing field.

“Our students and faculty are creative. They’ve got great ideas, and we have to find a way to allow them to nurture those ideas—that’s what FIRE is all about.”

– **CATHERINE TODERO, PhD, RN, FAAN, BSN’72**
DEAN, COLLEGE OF NURSING
VICE PROVOST, HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUSES



To Give is to Receive

GLOBAL SCHOLARSHIP, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION

Approximately 50% of sophomore students spend time studying abroad, many through global initiatives in the Dominican Republic, China, and other countries. Time spent absorbing various cultures allows students to better understand how to provide holistic health to diverse populations. To engage our “think globally, act locally” approach to service, we must provide interprofessional scholarship and service opportunities across the University’s health professions.

Travel grants also allow students the opportunity to attend and even present their own research at conferences nationally and abroad.

SCHOLARSHIP AND PROGRAMMATIC OPPORTUNITIES

Students have the opportunity to gain their degree at one of our three campuses, allowing them to study alongside a variety of interdisciplinary colleagues, treat diverse populations, and work within some of the largest health care systems in the nation. Scholarships and new programmatic opportunities will allow for strong enrollment and an ever-evolving curriculum across campuses.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Through research grants, endowed chairs and endowed professorships, donors help the College of Nursing continue to lead the way in clinical care research—creating more opportunities and adding new knowledge to the world.

MONEN HEALTHCARE CLINIC

Our nursing students serve local immigrants, refugees, and other vulnerable communities through our continued partnership with the Monen Healthcare Clinic within the Heart Ministry Center in Omaha. Here, Creighton students and faculty volunteer their services to provide free preventative and urgent care to Omaha’s most underserved populations on a walk-in basis.

TOGETHER AND FOREVER, THROUGH CREIGHTON

Your generosity benefits those who stand for and with others. Every gift to Creighton impacts our students and contributes to a better world.

WAYS TO INVEST

- ◆ Cash Gifts
- ◆ Appreciated Securities
- ◆ Deferred Gifts
Bequest, Life Insurance, Charitable Remainder Trust, Gift Annuity
- ◆ Real Estate
- ◆ Life Insurance
- ◆ Matching Gifts
- ◆ Memorial and Tribute Gifts

CONTACT

University Relations
402.280.2740
800.334.8794
giving@creighton.edu
creighton.edu/forwardblue

Creighton University
P.O. Box 30282
Omaha, NE 68103-1382

