

November 2020 CSUSB Department of Nursing Alumni Newsletter

Greetings from the CSUSB Department of Nursing faculty and staff!

We trust you are safe and well. We know the graduates of the CSUSB nursing programs, and many of our current students, are serving as front-line health care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. We're so proud of you.

Much has happened since our last Alumni Update. We'll try to summarize what's been happening with the nursing programs at CSUSB.

Online Classes

On-campus classes at CSUSB were suspended in late March 2020; classes are now offered online, including undergraduate and graduate nursing courses. Class sessions formerly offered face-to-face on campus are typically now offered synchronously via Zoom. Even lab sessions are conducted via Zoom. The below photo is of students in the undergraduate "fundamentals" course practicing gowning and gloving in a Zoom lab.

It has taken significant adjustment to get used to not being together for classes and labs, just one more major life adjustment in this time of not gathering with family for holidays, not take vacations, and more. We miss seeing each other in person, learning side-by-side in the Skills Labs, getting coffee together on campus, studying together in the library. Learning this way is very different, and sometimes also difficult. The human connection among learners is important; some days it's a struggle to keep oneself motivated to study when that human connection is less evident. But the students are pressing on. We're so proud of them.



Clinical Placement Challenges

As COVID-19 broke out in Riverside and San Bernardino counties last spring, many of our clinical partners turned their attention on preparing to care for COVID-positive patients and did not accept CSUSB nursing students for placement in their facilities. As of Fall 2020, our students continue to be displaced from some of our long-time clinical partners. We are grateful to those clinical partners who have continued to make space for

undergraduate and graduate student clinical placements. Our students and faculty have had to flex their life schedules to accommodate weekend and night-shift clinical placements in the clinical partners that are still open to us. We are grateful for their willingness to adapt to the realities of clinical learning in the time of a pandemic.

New Clinical Partners

Even as some of our long-time clinical partners have temporarily suspended CSUSB students' access to their facilities, other agencies and organizations have opened their doors to undergraduate and graduate students. For example, new Affiliation Contracts have been negotiated with three networks of federally qualified health centers in our region. These partnerships will permit undergraduate and graduate students to serve vulnerable populations in a broader and more intentional way. We are grateful to these new clinical partners.

Active Community Engagement

CSUSB nursing students, both through their clinical practicums and their active volunteerism, are engaged in serving communities in the Inland Empire and the Coachella Valley. The below photo is of a group of students preparing food and nutrition information to distribute to residents of a Hope Through Housing facility in Montclair as part of a clinical practicum. Additionally, the nursing student organizations on both the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campus log hundreds and hundreds of volunteer service hours each term, carrying out health-related and general service-related activities. We're so proud of them.



New Calendar, New Curriculum, New Faculty

The Fall 2020 term was marked by many “new” things. First, it marked the beginning of the University’s official transition from quarters to semesters. Students now have 16-week semesters (15 weeks of classes plus a final exam week) instead of 10-week quarters (10 weeks of classes plus a final exam week). A Winter Intersession has

also been added. Spring semester classes will begin in late January 2021. Students and faculty alike have needed to adjust to a new pace of learning.

Second, Fall 2020 marked the launch of revised curricula for all nursing programs. Virtually every major and program at CSUSB underwent a curriculum review and revision as part of the quarter-to-semester transition. The prelicensure BSN program went from a 9-quarter to a 5-semester program. The RN to BSN program was significantly revised; students can earn their BSN in as few as 3 semesters. Students in the new Collaborative Enrollment Program (CEP) earn their ADN at Riverside City College while simultaneously taking BSN one course per term at CSUSB. Upon completion of the ADN students take BSN classes for two more terms at CSUSB and graduate with the BSN. Finally, the MSN program was revised to continue offering 3 concentrations, retaining the Advanced Community/Public Health and Nurse Educator concentrations while re-visioning the Population-Based Nursing concentration to a Population Health for Clinical Leaders emphasis. The core courses in the MSN program retain the population health emphasis that has been a strength of the CSUSB MSN program since its inception.

Third, three new tenure-track faculty were hired beginning Fall 2020. Dr. Anne Lama, Dr. Henrietta Nwamu, and Dr. Tykeysha Thomas, we welcome you!

Graduates' Success

Finally, CSUSB nursing graduates continue to succeed in significant ways. In order to help as many prelicensure students as possible complete their quarter-based curriculum before the Fall 2020 transition to semesters, one cohort of students graduated in June 2020 and a second cohort graduated in July/August 2020. The NCLEX-RN pass rate for first-time test takers between July 1st and September 30th, 2020, was 95.24%. Outstanding, graduates!

In conclusion, as we move into the Thanksgiving season the faculty and staff of the CSUSB Department of Nursing wish you health and happiness. Please write to tell us of your accomplishments! Email us at nursinginfo@csusb.edu. We would love to feature alumni accomplishments on our Facebook page, "CSUSB Department of Nursing".

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Department of Nursing, have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

