AWARDED 11TH IN COUNTRY

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) grants accreditation to the DNP and post-graduate APRN certificate program

In a letter dated May 27, 2016 CCNE informed Interim Dean Phillips that the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program and the post-graduate APRN certificate program at The University of Toledo was granted accreditation for 5 years, extending to June 30, 2021. The accreditation action is effective as of November 4, 2015, which is the first day of the program’s recent CCNE on-site evaluation. The CCNE Board of Commissioners determined that each program met all four accreditation standards. The Board additionally determined that there are no compliance concerns with respect to the key elements. Thank you to all faculty, staff and students involved in the accreditation process!

The College of Nursing is proud to announce we are now on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Follow us and tell us how you like to stay connected! Get all the latest updates about the College of Nursing and upcoming events.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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UToledoNursing
Welcome to the 2016 summer newsletter edition of Nursing LEADS. I am filled with pride as I look back at the success and achievements within the College of Nursing over the last academic year. Each day, I am inspired by the energy of our faculty and students, and the dedication of our alumni and donors. I encourage you to read this publication to obtain the ongoing energy and vision for the College of Nursing.

I am proud to announce that the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program and post-graduate APRN certificate program were granted accreditation for 5 years, extending to June 30, 2021. Thank you to all faculty, staff and students involved in the accreditation process! The quality of the academic programs is of the upmost importance. However, it is the difference in the real world outcomes that our graduates make that is most significant. We strive to create a rich academic environment that is engaging for all of our community members, faculty and students alike, and commitment to diversity and equality in all that we do.

As the College of Nursing moves forward, it is our collective goal to build and strengthen partnerships with alumni, healthcare leaders, and our community. Together we can advance our commitment to innovation, evidenced based clinical education, nursing scholarship, and the delivery of University quality care in our state and beyond. We always welcome and appreciate hearing from you. Please continue to visit our website often and learn more about College of Nursing.

Thank you for your investment,

Kelly Phillips, PhD, RN, CNS, CNL
Interim Dean and Associate Professor
College of Nursing
The Edith Rathbun Outreach and Engagement Excellence Fund recognizes faculty for their exceptional community outreach and excellence in community-engaged scholarship, whether in research, teaching or professional service. Engaged scholarship for this purpose, means that the research, teaching or professional service is conducted in close partnership with community constituents, meets high academic standards, and that the outcomes are mutually beneficial to UT and the community.

This year Dr. Marilynne Wood was a recipient of this prestigious award. "As principal investigator of the Elevated Lead Levels in Children and Adolescents: Behavioral Issues and Health Policy Implications research study, Dr. Wood has directed the team of investigators providing free blood lead level screenings and lead poisoning prevention/exposure education in our Toledo community.

As an active pediatric nurse educator and practitioner, Dr. Wood strives to impact health policy requiring blood lead level screening before early childhood education and kindergarten. Preliminary findings of her research support the correlation of elevated blood lead levels in children and behavioral issues in school," one nominator wrote. "Dr. Wood has worked with more than 250 College of Nursing undergraduate and graduate students on the study, and their work has directly impacted over 300 children in the Toledo area through lead screenings and more than 500 families through lead exposure education."

The University of Toledo College of Nursing held its 10th annual research day on Monday, April 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium.

The day’s theme was “Changing Practice Through Nursing Research,” and Dr. Claire Burke Draucker, the Angela Barron McBride Endowed Professorship in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing at the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, was the keynote speaker.

Draucker presented “Healing from Interpersonal Violence.” Her research focuses on how men and women heal from interpersonal violence throughout the lifespan and has been sponsored by the National Institute of Nursing Research, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Ohio State Department of Mental Health and private foundations.

Other topics that were covered included: "Barriers and Facilitators to Assessing Adolescent Sexual Health Among Advanced Practice Registered Nurses," "Problems and Successes Reported by Male Stroke Caregivers," "Decreasing Non-Urgent Use of Emergency Department by Pediatric Patients: Interventions With Reduced Health Literacy Demands," and "Adolescent’s Perceived Health Risks and Collective Family Efficacy."

“The primary purpose of the research day was to enhance nursing knowledge through learning about current research and practice trends within clinical and educational nursing. This is accomplished by showcasing our talented faculty and students by sharing their research and evidence-based practice work,” said Heidi Shank, UT nursing instructor, director of BSN and RN-BSN Programs, and research day task force chair.
LEGACY PROJECT
BY ANN BAKER PHD, CNP, CNS

PHASE ONE OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING LEGACY PROJECT IS NOW COMPLETE!

This academic nursing program now celebrates more than 45 years of success. The Medical College of Ohio School of Nursing (as it was originally established), began with efforts by interested community professionals who were dedicated to the concept of a baccalaureate program of nursing in northwest Ohio. A consortium model was established with an academic agreement between the Medical College of Ohio and Bowling Green State University in 1971, and later, The University of Toledo in 1974. In 1974, the premier class of 18 students of BGSU successfully completed the requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

I came on faculty in late 1977 until 2011, and had the honor of working with all five Deans, the late Dean Ruth Kelly, and Deans Grace Chickadonz (Harlow-Klein), Joyce Shoemaker, Jeri Milstead and Tim Gaspar. Original impetus was through encouragement from Dean Emerita Milstead and became a reality with the support and creativity of Dean Gaspar, and the professional expertise of Hugh Benning and his branding team of the Continental Office Company. Development of the content and form for The Legacy Project occurred over many years and after interviews and guidance from current faculty, emeritus and retired faculty, influential community leaders and design professionals.

It is planned that The Legacy Project will occur in three phases: the Initial Introduction to the College, which is an installation of graphics, new wall coverings, artifacts and historical moments which is now completed in the Collier Building on the fourth floor administrative foyer, halls, conference room and waiting area. The color scheme and visuals are in sync with the rest of the University in shades of blue and gold. Many donated historical artifacts are on display, such as the first Prism Award for Graduate Teaching Excellence donated by Dr Sharon Utz who now is on faculty at the University of Virginia, original published articles by Drs Utz, Virginia Whitmire and Chickadonz describing the development of the first Masters curriculum in 1980, old and current student uniforms (donated by John Hayward in the name of the late Mary Beth Hayward), and the original brass faceplate from the Maumee Valley School of Nursing (donated by the late Caroline Topliff, RN, for Nurse Director of the MCO) Emergency Department. This site housed the first nursing faculty offices.

Academic hoods were donated by Cheryl Geis, DNP, RN, (doctoral) and Paula Ballmer, MSN, RN, (masters). An original UT nurse cap and pin were donated by Dr. Grothaus. One section of this installation prominently displays the photographs and accomplishments of each Dean over time.

I am indebted especially to the "pioneer faculty" Drs Patricia Donahue (Hageman) the very first faculty member who was hired in 1971 and other early and retired faculty, Drs Ruth Alteneder, Deanna Cedargren, Joanne Guyton-Simmons, Virginia Whitmire, Sharon Utz, Grace Chickadonz, Jeri Milstead, and...
Kay Grothaus for their leadership in identifying important milestones in the history of the School and College.

Contingent on donations we anticipate Phase Two of the history will contain the real focus of the legacy, in describing nurse education programs in Toledo, and development of the curricula, majors and programs of the College. Who would have guessed that the hard work in the development of the first baccalaureate program in the early seventies would now lead to a premier academic program with many graduate majors and a doctoral program taught by faculty recognized for their clinical excellence and research accomplishments? A lovely letter was received, after publication of the introduction to this project in LEADS 2015, by Karis Crawford, the daughter of Virginia Miller Crawford, complete with her Cadet Nursing Corps photo from her time in the early 1950. I have also met with Dr. Carrie Lee who has been conducting historical research with her graduate nurse students, and hope that this will provide some focus for this part of the Project.

Phase Three will be fun. It will highlight in pictorial and video form the amazing faculty and alumni of the College. So many have achieved so much! We must capture these amazing nurses, researchers and clinicians before all is forgotten or slips away.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who have made contributions either financially or by donation of your valuable keepsakes. You are now a part of the Legacy! You can still make a donation to Phases Two and Three of this program by donating to give2ut.utoledo.edu/nursing.asp. We are also indebted to Dr. Christopher Cooper, MD, Senior Vice President for Clinical Affairs and Dean, College of Medicine and Life Sciences at the University of Toledo, for his donation to this Project.

My husband Tom and I are honored to have supported Phase One of The Legacy Project in gratitude for the opportunities afforded me for over 30 years as faculty member, hospital administrator and clinician. What a wonderful ride it has been.

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COLLEGE OF NURSING PLEDGE

The University of Toledo College of Nursing Pledge updated version of the Nightengale Pledge was created by Dr. Katherine Sink and Dr. Carolyn Lee. The updated version was recited for the first time at the Spring 2016 Commencement ceremony.

“I solemnly promise to practice nursing to the best of my ability and to live my life with integrity. I will strive for excellence using professional nursing standards and the ANA Code of Ethics as guides. I will endeavor to use my intellect, spirit, and knowledge in providing non-judgmental, compassionate and quality care to all I serve. I accept the responsibility of this important work and embrace a journey of constant learning and growth. I will work collaboratively with all others to protect and promote the health and safety of individuals, communities and society. I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the art and science of nursing, respectful of the contributions of nurses who have come before me. Today, I proudly affirm my commitment to our wonderful profession.”

PROJECT PJ

Excellent job to our Student Nurses Association who collected over 119 items to Project PJ. Thanks to their generosity, Project PJ raised 213 pounds of food, $143.35, and collected over 6,050 items! Together 800 families received bedtime essentials. The Toledo Seagate Food Bank partners with local businesses for Project PJ to collect pajamas. The food bank and their partners want to make sure the families in our area have all the bedtime supplies they need; items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, slippers and blankets. Again, outstanding job to SNA for serving our community and those in need!
MEDICAL MISSIONS TO HAITI

By: Dr. Susan Batten

Medical mission trips are an excellent way to do good work and strengthen the bond within a cohort. While in Haiti we cared for a lot of patients with tropical diseases as well as medical and dental emergencies; we also provided wellness care for adults, children, and infants. For some reason, there were far more cases of extensive viral warts and skin infections than last year, but less scabies. The students gained first-hand experience with Dengue fever, Chickungunya, and malaria, vector borne illnesses rarely seen in the US.

Several categories of needs predominated: wellness visits for infants, children and pregnant women; acute care of upper respiratory infections, gastrointestinal problems, and orthopedic issues related to heavy work and related injuries, and dental extractions. Every patient was treated for intestinal parasites and children were given multivitamins. Minor injuries were assessed and managed onsite; serious healthcare issues were referred to a six-bed hospital in Pestel. One FNP student donated blood for a transfusion, so that debridement of a tumor could be accomplished.

The team distributed medications for diverse health problems, from hypertension to seizures to tuberculosis and other infections. The nursing students worked with the pharmacist to manage medication distribution; I assisted one evening when the line was wrapped around the building and into the road. Medications were not prepackaged by the team prior to travel to Haiti, so the students gained perspective in how time consuming it is to count medications onsite. Unused medications and supplies were delivered to a rural hospital outside Port Au Prince at end of the mission trip.

We ended the day at dusk with a drive back to the mission. The roads above Pestel were in dreadful shape, with limestone boulders loose everywhere. It took at least 30-45 minutes every night for the entire team to traverse the worst section, about one-tenth a mile. Some nights we summarized events and shared insights after dinner; other nights we repacked supplies, then climbed under the mosquito nets for some sleep while trying to ignore the noisy roosters guarding the compound.

We drove to Pestel the final day to visit a local hospital and provide some pharmacy supplies, then sailed to a remote island for a few hours of recreation and fresh lobsters cooked on an open fire. The drive back to Port-Au-Prince took all day so we stayed overnight in a hotel; the return flight to the United States was uneventful. The team provided high quality care and extensive health promoter training to local village volunteers. Great trip and great outcomes! I continue to be thrilled with the maturity of the healthcare students and quality of interactions with faculty and licensed providers. All the students were respectful of the patients and families, going out of the way to make certain that needs were addressed appropriately. Each nursing student experienced challenging situations and adapted well to the uncertainty. In retrospect, there was lots of laughter about the lack of restroom facilities and new appreciation for stateside public rest stops. I appreciate the support of the Kohler Fund for my personal travel expenses, and am thankful that CISP is able to provide scholarships for some of the students. It is an honor to participate in the medical mission trips and always makes me proud that we can do so much for so many with so little. Thank you!
UT NURSING STUDENT WINS NATIONAL STUDENT NURSES’ ASSOCIATION CORE VALUES AWARD

BY ASHLEY GEARHEART

Advocacy, professionalism, quality education, leadership and autonomy are the core values of the National Student Nurses’ Association, which recently awarded UT Clinical Nurse Leader student Amanda Nuckols the Core Values Award.

The Core Values Award is given nationally to one student per year. The award is designed to inspire students to embody the values most important to members of the National Student Nurses’ Association.

To be eligible for the Core Values Award, students must be pursuing a nursing degree, a member of the National Student Nurses’ Association and they must be nominated by faculty.

“It’s an honor working with a student that demonstrates these core values. She’s amazing. She’s humble. I’ve never met another student like her in all my years as an advisor,” said Karen Tormoehlen, Student Nurses Association (SNA) advisor and assistant professor, who nominated Nuckols for the award.

Nuckols graduated from the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) program, which allows students with a Bachelor degree in another discipline to receive a Master’s degree in nursing in two years.

In her time as a nursing student, Nuckols served as president, cohort representative and convention planner of the UT Student Nurses’ Association. She also served on the Nominations and Elections Committee of the national organization.

In addition to these roles, Nuckols helped build a playground for the local Ronald McDonald House, assisted in a community event that gave families impacted by human trafficking a day at the zoo, led the local SNA chapter in providing a bountiful Christmas for orphans, participated in medical mission trips to third world countries, volunteered at a free clinic serving the homeless and more.

Nuckols will be returning to The University this fall to continue her studies with the Family Nurse Practitioner program. She also intends to work as a registered nurse while pursuing her third degree.

“This is a huge honor,” said Nuckols. “I have worked hard to do well as I was completing my studies, while also being involved in a variety of organizations and roles. I am so glad that my effort and dedication has paid off.”

SUTURING SIMULATION

As a method for closing wounds, the technique of suturing is thousands of years old. Although suture materials and aspects of the technique have changed, the primary goals remain the same:

- Closing dead space
- Supporting and strengthening wounds until healing increases
- Approximating skin edges for an aesthetically pleasing and functional result
- Minimizing the risks of bleeding and infection

Suturing is a common encountered procedure by nurse practitioners and is an important skill that practitioners need to address. This is why instructor, Kathryn Pilliod-Carpenter, conducts suturing simulation once a year with three available times. Kathy has been running simulation for her students for the last 2 years. With tremendous positive feedback from students she plans to carry on with the simulation. Having a suturing simulation is a learning experience, with video, powerpoint and hands on direction.

Simulation is a controlled, hands on environment where students develop basic and advanced suturing skills, suturing on a skin surface, subcuticular suturing and deep wound closure. The simulation also promotes proper healing, how to prevent infection, learning the appropriate technic for closing a laceration, learning how to prep the wound and suturing materials and techniques.

Simulation is a 90 minute experience packed with incredible information and guidance for our graduate students. The suturing seminar/simulation is the last clinical course and an optional experience. The simulation staff are excellent in providing resources. It is a great experience for all.

Here is what FNP student, Alex Young, had to say about simulation.

“The simulated suturing experience was very beneficial. I think it’s important for all nurse practitioner’s to have an opportunity to experience learning this skill prior to going into practice. Many of my classmates, myself included had no prior experience in suturing. Learning how to suture can create anxiety in students. The simulation provided an opportunity for us to learn and practice suturing techniques in a controlled environment which lessened the amount of stress we felt. I would definitely recommend that the simulation is offered in future semesters as it is something the entire class can benefit from.”
**BRAG BOARD**

**Nursing Leads**

- **Huey-Shys Chen**
  Wins Fulbright Specialist Program Award  
  (04/2016 - 04/2020)

- **Kristina M. Reuille PLCo, PL Huey-Shys Chen**
  Development and psychometric validation of the Alarm Fatigue Scale funded by Zeta Theta Alice Marion research grant.  
  (03/2016 - 03/2017)

- **Pl. Marilynne Wood**
  Elevated Blood Levels in Children Increasing Knowledge in the School Environment Funded by Debra Buchman Fund  
  (03/2016 - 03/2017)

- **Tonya Schmitt**
  Barriers to Assessing Adolescent Sexual Health in Pediatric Nurse Practitioner funded by Debra Buchman Fund  
  (03/2016 - 03/2017)

- **Pl. Huey-Shys ChenCo, PL. Y. Zhang**
  “Moving Patient Care Quality Forward by Benchmarking Nursing Care Performance” Funded by Zeta Theta Tau Research Grant  
  (03/2016 - 05/2017)

**FACULTY PRESENTATIONS**

- **H.S. Chen & Y. Zhang (2016)**
  Efficiency and quality of U.S. nursing homes: A Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) model. Oral presentation at the Midwest Nursing Research Society (March 17-20) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

- **Tonya Schmitt (2016)**
  Barriers to Assessing Adolescent Sexual Health in Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, UT CON research day.

- **Mary Jean Ohns (2016)**
  “Decreasing Non-Urgent Use of the Emergency Department by Pediatric Patients: Interventions with Reduced Health Literacy Demands”. Poster presentation at the National NPT conference in Atlanta.

- **Marty Sexton (2016)**
  “Using Simulation to Enhance a Large Scale Interprofessional Program”. Oral presentation at the Ohio Consortium of Nursing Learning Labs Conference.

- **Tsui-Sui Kao (2016)**
  Adolescent’s Perceived Health Risks and Collective Family Efficacy. UT CON research day.
STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS AT MNRS, 2016

Jennifer Galliers: Eliminating Weight Attainment Inaccuracies in the Emergency Setting

Jennifer Kaple: Verification Methods of NG and DGT Tubes

Gregory Joel Wheeler: Feasibility of Nordik Pole Walking as an Adjunct to Supervised Exercise for Patients with Peripheral Arterial Disease

Erica Wolff: The Role of Nursing Best Practice Champions in Diffusing Sepsis Bundle

Matthew Steven Fischer: Quality of Life and Fatigue in Women Undergoing Radiation Therapy for Breast Cancer

STUDENT GRANT

Erica Wolff - The Use of Sepsis Nurse Champions to Improve Patient Outcomes in Acute Care funded by Debra Buchanan Fund (03/2016-03/2017)

Karen Martin - Implementation of Motor Lead Physical Activity Program among Disadvantaged Youth funded by Debra Buchanan Fund (03/2016-03/2017)

Teresa Betts-Coban - Training Haitian Midwives to Perform Cervical Cancer Screening Using Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid and Cryosurgery funded by Debra Buchanan Fund (03/2016-03/2017)
Michael Finch, MSN, RN, CNL graduated from the MSN CNL Graduate Entry program at The University of Toledo in 2011. After graduation, he began his career in the adult intensive care unit at Toledo Hospital. A year later he was offered a position at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital in the surgical thoracic intensive care unit and was there for a year before being asked to transfer to Bay Pines VA Healthcare System in Florida. After two years working as a CNL in the surgical intensive care unit (SICU), Michael was offered an advancement to Quality Systems Services. As a Quality Systems Specialist and LEAN black belt practitioner, he works to improve Veterans care. While in the SICU he started a reusable Unit Tracking Board of core measures. In today's healthcare systems, process improvement based on data collection of core measurements can lead to better outcomes, fiscal responsibility and identification and improvement of processes. However, dissemination of unit process improvement outcomes to frontline staff can be difficult. The communication and presentation of unit data can be difficult to interpret, and staff must spend time attempting to convert data into a useable form. Because of this, important data and information can be overlooked or neglected by those in the best position to positively affect Veteran outcomes.

The board, titled “Unit Tracking Board: Where We Stand at a Glance,” measures 46”x 32” and is easily accessible to staff. A Unit Tracking Board is an inexpensive tool to communicate outcomes. Contrary to how most data is presented in percentage format, all data is refined to the simplest form. For example, presentation of data is National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI) regarding falls is reported as 0.6. This appears to be a very low percentage and it can be unclear that it is calculated per 1,000 patient days. Instead, the communication board states: “1 fall since November 23.” This allows the staff to quickly glance at numbers and understand the importance and then apply to their daily practice for continual improvement and safety. When no new data is available, or there are no new falls or infections, the board shows the “Days since____,” such as “432 days since unit Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infections. The new version of the board also displays Veteran satisfaction scores, admission, discharge and daily census for the unit; and the number of alerts responded to per month. This can instill in the staff pride about the unit success as well as provide a reminder to continue to provide the best care to Veterans. It can also enhance staff collaboration and the shared goal to utilize evidence based practice in providing excellence in care. The board is laminated so dry erase markers can be used to write current data and add new tracking points. As a result of implementing the Unit Tracking Board, staff in the SICU had an increased awareness of unit data points and verbalized how much easier the data was to understand and utilize in their daily practice.

In August 2014, the Unit Tracking Board was presented and discussed at a monthly national Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) call. After the presentation a number of VA hospital inpatient units expressed interest in creating boards for their own unit. Michael’s idea was one of 240 that were submitted from VA facilities across the nation. Of those 40 ideas were selected by a team of subject matter experts. Each of the 40 had to submit a two minute video about their practice and how it improves care. Twenty projects were selected to move on and required to deliver a ‘shark tank’ presentation to VA facility directors and VISN directors. Subject matter experts selected 13 of the 20 practices to be Gold Status Best Practices and the originators were awarded the title of Gold Status Fellows. The entire process was under the direction of Dr. Shulkin, Under Secretary of Health. Michael traveled to Washington D.C. for the Diffusion of Excellence Planning Summit to meet with a team from another VA facility that would be implementing the UTB in their nursing units. This spread of UTB continues as Michael is currently working with four other facilities to implement the use of UTB on their units.

Michael is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International and has presented at the Clinical Nurse Leader Summit in 2015. We congratulate Michael on his outstanding work to improve the human condition and the care of our Veterans.
In January 2016, Dr. Temeaka Gray learned of her acceptance into Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy (NFLA) for 2016-17. The program is presented in partnership with the Elsevier Foundation. It is an intense international leadership development experience. The purpose of the NFLA is to facilitate personal leadership development, foster academic success, promote nurse faculty retention, and cultivate high performing and supportive academic work environments.

Selection of participants known as Scholars is competitive. Scholars are required to have doctoral preparation and at least two years but no more than seven years of experience as a full time non-tenured faculty in a school of nursing. Scholars are required to choose a Leadership Mentor (LM) prior to completing the application. Selection of Scholars by STTI is based on leadership potential, commitment to nursing education and the advancement of faculty leadership development, the potential for the proposed project to have an impact on the advancement of nursing education and to be sustainable beyond the time of the program. The application review process includes review and ranking of the LM portion of the application and review of letters of support from the organizations that employ the Scholar and the LM. Once an application has been accepted, a Faculty Advisor is assigned by STTI; thus completing the Triad necessary for the NFLA Experience.

The curriculum is a 20-month leadership development program. The 2016-2017 curriculum represents Cohort 3. During the course of the program, the Scholar is responsible for planning, designing, implementing, and evaluating the proposed project. Dr. Gray's topic is the use of blinded communication to encourage communication between junior and senior level faculty. The Scholar and LM are required to attend one intensive four-day workshop in Indianapolis in 2016 and one intensive four-day workshop in Indianapolis in 2017. The Scholar is also required to present a professional poster at the STTI 2017 Biennial Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

DR. HUEY-SHYS CHEN NAMED FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST

Huey-Shys Chen, PhD, FAAN, Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship in the College of Nursing is now a Fulbright Specialist. The Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP) awards grants to faculty and professionals in the United States to undertake short-term collaborative projects with their counterparts at higher education institutions as well as non-academic institutions. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. By awarding short term grants, specialists have greater flexibility to pursue projects that work best with their current academic and professional commitments.

The primary goals of the program include, but are not limited to, education focused programming, the expansion of partnerships between universities and specialized institutions, or the promotion of international and cross-institutional cooperation in eligible countries. Project activities may include teacher training, short-term lecturing, participating in seminars, special conferences or workshops as well as collaborating on curriculum planning, institutions and/or faculty development.

The specialist’s international travel costs and a post-project honorarium are paid by the U.S. Department of State, through the management of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES). The host institution pays for or provides in-country transportation, accommodations and meals, which may be provided in the form of in-kind services.

U.S. Scholars and professionals apply to join the Fulbright Specialist Roster. Eligible applicants submit applications that are evaluated by peer review committees in each field. If recommended, the applicant joins the specialist roster and is eligible during a period of five years for short term grants at host institutions overseas. Non-U.S. institutions submit Fulbright Specialist Requests. CIES matches U.S. candidates on the roster with approved requests.

The Fulbright Specialist Program hopes to increase the number of leading U.S. Scholars in Fulbright academic exchanges and encourage new activities that go beyond the traditional Fulbright activities of lecturing and research.

Congratulations to Dr. Chen on being named to this outstanding program.
Patty Sopko, MSN, RN, CNE as nominated for the Lancelot C.A. Thompson Service to Students Award. Dr. Lance-lot C.A. Thompson, a Jamaican native, was the first full-time African American faculty member at The University of Toledo. His focus on the student experience saw him promoted to Vice President of Student Affairs where he worked to serve the student body and left a legacy for faculty and staff to uphold. The Lancelot C.A. Thompson Service to Students Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies what it means to be student-focused in their duties and who excels in providing service to students at The University of Toledo. The award is in recognition of Dr. Thompson's motto, "Students First." Patty is an instructor in the BSN program. She also serves as an advisor to the Student Nurses Association. We congratulate Patty on her nomination.