

# THE SCOPE

**SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY'S  
NURSING NEWSLETTER**



**Southern Utah University  
Department of Nursing  
351 W. University Blvd SCA 108  
Cedar City, UT 84720  
[www.suu.edu/nursing](http://www.suu.edu/nursing)**



## CONTENT

--

**CLASS UPDATES**

--

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**

--

**NEW STAFF MEMEBER**

**Editor: Raquel Suarez  
Faculty Advisor: Donna Lister**

# CLASS UPDATES

## Level 1



**Level 1 has been a rollercoaster. It has been hallmarked by adjusting to a new program and longer classes. It has been going to a lot of different clinicals and meeting a wide variety of people. It has been learning how to take ATIs and reevaluating the best way to study. Mostly, it has been characterized by meeting life-long friends. We are all grateful to have each other to go through this part of our lives together.**

**We have all created a bond with each other, recognizing the need for support and love. We are excited to be in the Spring 2025 cohort, and we are excited to be in the nursing program.**  
**-Kallie Graves**

## Level 2



**Level Two has been a semester full of unique experiences that have allowed us to grow as people and as nurses. We are so grateful for the amazing faculty and staff who have helped us through the semester and pushed us toward excellence, and we are also grateful for each other. The bond we have as a cohort is unwavering; we truly are a family. The relationships built in Level One have turned into relationships that will last us the rest of our lives.**

**We can't imagine going through nursing school with anyone else. We have faced the challenges of this semester, overcame them, and excelled in ways we didn't know we could. Level Three here we come!**

**-Cassidy Chamberlain**

### Level 3



**This semester seems to have flown by. Level 3 has been a great opportunity to learn about pregnancy, care of the newborn, pediatrics, community health and care of the older adult. We have been able to participate in a variety of clinical experiences including St. George Regional hospital NICU, mom and baby, labor and delivery, and pediatrics, Color Country Pediatrics, various physicians offices, surgical centers, women's health office, and many others. Through these clinical experiences and many others, we have had the opportunity to expand our understanding about different aspects of nursing in order to become better nurses. We have loved this semester and are excited for what is to come.**

**-Becky Howell**

### Level 4

**Nursing School has been a rollercoaster. It has had moments where it sped by at light speed, where we laughed going through the "trauma" of upside down loopdy-loops aka clinicals, where we screamed and screamed into oblivion, and now we've reached the final stretch where the ride comes careening to stop. It's the longest part of the ride in some ways as you look at your friends and laugh at the adventure you just went on together. Then suddenly there are the ride managers aka the real world giving us the boot-kicked out of the safety of our car and saying good luck as you enter the real world of nursing. We all have many emotions towards graduation, but the most encompassing is excitement for the journeys that lay ahead for each of us. Many of us have accepted jobs at multiple different hospitals across several different states, and many of us have been lucky enough to get our dream jobs and beyond.**

**-Ashley Anderson**



**Health Professionals  
Level 2**



What can be said except the obvious? Here we are, and here we remain for the next foreseeable future. I wish I could tell you that time has passed quickly, that it has been a dream come true to be accepted to nursing school, and that these will be the days we will cherish and remember for all our lives... but to say such might actually awaken something within me that I had thought had died in our first semester - emotion? Hope? A sense of living? Things I had long forgotten and left behind, buried under the strain and scope of our awesome burden of being nursing students within the prestigious Southern Utah University. Sometimes, a whisper of a memory will cross my mind. Prompting me to remember strange lands of color, laughter, and purpose. But soon the memory washes away to the gray painted classroom walls, the dark lighting, and the blank whiteboards; the sound of a dry voice drifting across the stale dusty room carrying important knowledge only to be forgotten in seconds. What else can be said of our situation? Here we are, and here we remain...  
-Dillion Blackner

**RN to BSN**

The SUU RN to BSN program was recently ranked 35th out of 747 programs available nationwide putting our program in the top 4.7%. The program takes an average of 1 year to complete and allows its BSN graduates to be prepared for new nursing roles in community, leadership, management and often opens the door to continuing education and growth.  
-Janelle Brown



**MSN in Leadership & Administration Update**

The DON faculty approved a proposal to begin a Master of Science in Nursing Leadership and Administration program (MSN in Leadership) in 2021. The MSN in Leadership program was approved by the Utah Board of Regents in the summer of 2022, and accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) in fall 2022. The MSN in Leadership program admitted its first cohort of students in May 2023. The SUU DON and Administration have approved two additional MSN in Leadership program tracks, an RN to MSN in Leadership, and a dual MSN and Master of Business Administration (MSN/MBA) track. Both new MSN in Leadership tracks began admitting students in August of 2023.

The Master of Science in Nursing Leadership and Administration program is a 30-credit online program designed for registered nurses with a bachelor's degree interested in learning and developing leadership skills to advance health equity, promote population health outcomes, and help organizations and governments improve quality and value in healthcare. The program includes courses in leadership theory, leadership ethics, evidence-based practice in leadership, innovation and informatics, health policy for nurse leaders, and practice-based clinical experience. The curriculum also includes three Master of Business Administration (MBA) courses to allow nurses to learn and interact with MBA students. The MSN Leadership program has applied for Accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

A Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN FNP) program was approved by the SUU DON and Administration in the fall of 2022, and the program was approved by the SUU Board of Trustees in September 2023. The MSN FNP program is a five-semester, 52-credit, online program that includes 750 hours of clinical experience in primary care. The curriculum also requires students to attend a one-week Clinical Intensive course that will be held on campus at SUU before they begin their clinical courses. We plan on opening applications for the program in the spring of 2024 with the first courses beginning in the fall of 2024. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in nursing and one year of work experience as an RN or LPN.

-Mark Siemon

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Lisa Anderson



**"My first career was as a Recreational Therapist, where I worked at the Utah State Hospital with adolescents for several years. After taking a break to be a mom for about 15 years, I returned to school in 2015 to study nursing. I graduated from SUU with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing in 2018. After graduation I, surprisingly, found myself working in mental health once again with adolescents (which is challenging, but so rewarding). While working at Mountain Springs Preparatory Academy as an RN, I saw the great need for more mental health providers. I began a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner program in 2020. I was offered an opportunity to be a nurse manager at another treatment center, Havenwood Academy, and worked there while I finished my Master's Degree from Eastern Kentucky University. I am now a Board Certified PMHNP (Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.) I continue my practice at several different local adolescent treatment centers and hope to begin doing outpatient work in the community."**

# NEW STAFF



## ERIN COSTELLO

**Erin Costello is a professional staff member in the Department of Nursing at SUU and functions as the Nursing Lab Coordinator. Erin holds her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Azusa Pacific University as well as her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science with an emphasis in Public Health from California State University of San Bernardino. She is a licensed Registered Nurse in the states of Utah and California and is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honors Society of Nursing. Erin's experience has primarily been in Dermatology, LDRP, and Community Health. Erin has a passion for serving others and contributing to her community.**