

# The Scope

Spring 2016



NEW NURSING SCHOLARSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES

\$100,000

## What does Ten-Years of Nursing Graduates Look Like?

475 Bachelor prepared Registered Nurses (101 Male).



Overall NCLEX-RN Pass-Rate of:

97.1%



239 Associate Degree To Bachelor Degree Registered Nurses (92 male).



# Celebration of Southern Utah Nursing



By: Ben Lister

The annual Celebration of Southern Utah Nursing was held on February 19, 2016. This annual celebration consists of a formal dinner and presentation of awards to nurses nominated as outstanding in their field by peers and patients. This year's outstanding nurse award winners are:

Chanda Hutchings - medical surgical nursing  
Amanda Potter - home health nursing  
Erma Kaye May - small hospital generalist  
Phyllis Maughan - labor and delivery nursing  
Aubry Lauritzen - critical care/ER nursing  
Carly Ashworth - long term care nursing  
Lauri Baumgartner - community/public health

Dr. William Clayton Petty was also recognized this year for his service on the Department of Nursing Advisory Board. The SUU fall 2014 Nursing graduates were recognized for their entire class passing the NCLEX-RN on their first attempt, being the seventh class to reach this accomplishment of a 100% pass-rate on the NCLEX-RN, first try.

The Celebration of Southern Utah Nursing provides a great opportunity for some of the best nurses in the Southwest Region to be recognized for their hard work and dedication to patients.

SUU Nursing Department Chair, Donna Lister, provided the food and guests were served by current SUU Nursing students.

Proceeds above the costs of the dinner go towards nursing scholarships.

## Nursing Honor Society Sigma Theta Tau International

SUU's Department of Nursing was notified, December 2015, that they have been accepted as an official chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Honor Society of Nursing. There will be a chartering ceremony September 29, 2016, in the SUU Great Hall. A representative from Sigma Theta Tau International will be in attendance. The SUU Honor Society of Nursing was established in 2013. Once SUU Nursing becomes an official STTI chapter, they will receive a Greek name and be part of the International Honor Society of Nursing. Typically, students are invited to join during their senior year of nursing school and if they are in the top third of their class. Benefits of membership include: being a part of an internationally recognized honor society, serving the local community, and participation in educational opportunities. Members can receive career assistance, be up to date on evidence-based practice in nursing, and participate in research grant opportunities. Outstanding RN's in the community, are also eligible to join.

"We have RN's who have supported and contributed to becoming a chapter since day one," Rebecca Rasmusson, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, stated.

A Luau themed service fundraiser was held on April 4, 2016. Proceeds of \$1000.00 were donated to Camp Kesem, a non-profit organization that supports children whose parents have cancer.

## Our Standard is Excellence

At SUU Nursing, our standard is excellence. Our teachers expect it from us and we expect it from them. We trust that our professors are preparing us to be successful. SUU's history of success is proof and it is a privilege to study in a successful program.

SUU's students are successful because of excellent professors. SheriDawn Neilson and Daphne Solomon are perfect examples. Both started their nursing careers at SUU.

SheriDawn graduated from SUU in 2007 and was immediately hired as an emergency room nurse. Five years later she began working with the life flight crew flying all over southern Utah saving lives and having fun doing it. She has brought her unique expertise into the classroom, sharing stories and her advanced nursing skills with students (like placing chest tubes on cadavers).

Daphne Solomon received her RN from the Weber State-SUU cooperative nursing program. She returned to SUU in 2007 to finish her BSN. She graduated from the University of Utah's Doctoral program in Nursing Practice in 2013 and has taught as an SUU professor for three years. Next year she starts at Idaho State University where she has been hired as an assistant professor in their doctoral nursing program.

SheriDawn and Daphne built successful nursing careers. Their careers and ours have been built on the same foundation; SUU. Who better to learn from than successful professors!



"To be a success, surround yourself with the right people" (Tom Mendoza of Forbes).

# Class Happenings



RN to BSN Class of May 2016

Hello from the RN-to-BSN students!

We started our program in May 2015, and are very excited to be graduating April 30, 2016. This class is full of men and women who are dedicated to the nursing profession and their education. The vast majority of the students in our class have worked while finishing their Bachelor of Science in Nursing. We work in a wide range of specialties including ICU, ER, NICU, CVU, Oncology, Behavioral Medicine, Home Health, and Hospice.

A majority of the class commuted from either the St. George or Richfield areas each Tuesday prepared for a full day of class. Many plan on continuing their education and have already applied to Graduate programs. Congratulations!

We would like to thank the dedicated faculty of the Department of Nursing. You have so much knowledge to impart from years of practice and experience. Thank you for choosing to teach and share that expertise with us.

Sincerely, Carleigh Corey



Level Four - Class of May 2016

As this final semester draws to a close we thank the faculty and staff for all the hard work spent on our behalf. As we prepare to enter the nursing world as new graduates we have a great foundation on which we can rely. We want level 1, 2, 3, and 4 students to know that there really is an end, that it is worth it, and you can do it. Just take it one day at a time, and you will succeed. We had many good times these past four semesters and hope to live up to the high standards SUU Nursing has set.

Sincerely, Nathan Butler



Level Three Class of December 2016

Level three has been full of positive experiences. Our class has continued to bond as we help bring life into this world and serve our community as student nurses each Monday and Tuesday. Many of us have found our possible nursing niche in the PEDS, NICU, or Labor & Delivery. Our wonderful professors have helped us excel and appreciate this semester. Many of us have started working as LPNs and cannot wait for December 2016 when we can proudly write RN after our names. Our advice to the lower levels is make the effort to bond and support your classmates. You see them every day and they are the only people who truly know what you are going through. Be the nurse that lifts others up. The best way to practice this is with your nursing colleagues.

Sincerely, Megan Benner

# Class Happenings



Level Two - Class of May 2017

Level two has been a full semester and we have learned so much. We have learned to build and expand our foundation. As well as apply the information we have learned. Our class has grown together and developed strong and supportive relationships. Many of us are studying to take the NCLEX-PN after this semester and hope to work as LPNs for the summer to get some extra clinical experience. We are grateful for the faculty members; their support, encouragement, and time. They have helped us to stay motivated and be successful. If there is one piece of advice our class could offer it would be to buckle down and "fake it till you make it." Our cohort is extremely excited to have made it to the half way mark and are enthusiastic about continuing on our path to achieve our dreams.

Sincerely, Katelyn Christensen



Level One - Class of December 2017

Starting nursing school has been an exciting and new experience for our class! We have an awesome team and have enjoyed learning from our faculty members who have been so inspirational and encouraging as we have begun our journey. Our class has grown close as we took our first ATI, completed our first validations, began our first clinical rotations, and inserted our first Foley catheters. We worked together to create our pledge ceremony and now strive to be the kind of future nurses we pledged to be on that day. We look forward to what the next three semesters will teach us and the best advice we have for new level one nursing students, is to keep up on your reading and lab hours each week, and soak up every experience provided to you.

Sincerely, Jaycie Judkins

## Keeping up with Graduates

Evan Whipple graduated in December 2014 and is currently working for Mayo Clinic in the Cardiac ICU Department. He is planning to go to graduate school next year for his CRNA. He really loves being an ICU nurse.

His advice for students in their final semester, is take advantage of your preceptorship hours. "Don't be afraid to jump in and do your assessments. Focus more on the disease process and how your treatments affect it. Worry less about the skills." An NCLEX tip was also offered by Evan, to take many practice questions, review what is missed, and focus on strengthening your weak areas.

For students who are interested in employment at the Mayo Clinic, apply now because positions do fill up fast. However, applicants must be prepared to live in a much colder environment and will need to use public transportation to get to work. He also suggested to focus on Mayo Clinic's top three values which is that the patient must always come first, education, and research.

Lastly, Evan talked about why he has decided to pursue becoming a CRNA. He job shadowed a nurse administrator, a nurse practitioner, and a nurse anesthetist, but he loved his experience with the CRNA. "You are in control of the patient. You can increase or decrease the BP, heart rate, breathing etc. I love the trust you have to build with the patient. It is a job that requires you to work well with a team, and it will push my abilities." His advice for anyone who is considering graduate school is to do your research. Find out what you like, keep an open mind (the possibilities are endless), look at the positives and negatives of both the program and the profession.

Mike Armstrong graduated in May 2007. He worked for Intermountain Healthcare's Shock Trauma ICU Department. He previously had experience working at the ER and as a EMT, so that enabled him to work in that department as a new graduate nurse. Mike is a practicing CRNA and he decided to go into that field because it provides a stable income for his family, and the field has always interested him. Mike did give a great tip for anyone who is considering to become a CRNA. "Most anesthesia schools require one to two years of ICU experience. So it's important to get in an ICU as quickly as you feel comfortable." He also informed me that the U of U offers an internship for new graduate nurses and they go through several different ICU departments such as neuro, burn, trauma, and cardiac. However, the catch is that it does require a two-year commitment. Researching different schools is also important because you'll be able to find which school fits you based on your interests. Mike also recommended that one must keep an open mind and apply to several anesthesia schools. "I applied to eight, but after my third interview, I got accepted and canceled the other interview because I liked the program in Missouri State." He did say that anesthesia school is very hard, but it is so worth it. He currently works at a small hospital in the Midwest and he is always home before his children arrive from school, which allows him to spend time with his family.

# Keeping up with Graduates - Class of Fall 2015

## Lauren Tatton

I work at Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston's downtown medical center. I work on a medical/surgical floor working with a variety of patients with cancer and transplants. I love my job and will be pursuing certifications in oncology and critical care.

## Courtney Kirklin

Life after graduation is great! After passing the NCLEX I was able to get into the residency program in the Southwest Region of Intermountain. I'm currently working at the Cedar City Hospital on the MedSurg floor. I love my job!

## Ellen Vincent

After I graduated from SUU, I was so scared what it would be like to be a nurse in the real world and I wondered if I would be ready! Then I started as a home health and hospice nurse and I realized that nursing school helped me be prepared as far as knowing what the basics are, but it is impossible to learn everything in school since nursing is so broad! I'm grateful for the foundation that SUU nursing provided for me and I am grateful to be in a career where I learn something new every day.

## Amelia Brown

I'm working full time as an RN at Bella Terra which is just the new name for Kolob. I'm just getting ready to have my baby in August. We just got a puppy about a month and a half ago so I play with her lots and she is a fun handful.

## Morgan Mitchell

I took a lot more time to prepare for my NCLEX than others and actually just got my license at the first of March. I'm currently deciding between two jobs I've been offered. One is a clinical nursing position at the University of Utah Orthopaedic Center and the other is at the University of Utah Hospital's Neuropsychiatric unit.

## Cristina Lopez

Life post-graduation has treated me well! I was lucky to receive a job offer on the Cancer/Transplant unit at Primary Children's Hospital. Although it is definitely not what I imagined I would be doing as a nurse after I graduated I don't regret it for a second. I love my job here and have been able to meet some really incredible kids, families, and coworkers. Being a nurse has been amazing!

## Amanda Franta

Things are good I completed the residency program for IHC and I'm working in the ED and ICU at Cedar City Hospital. I am also working at Cedar Orthopaedic Surgery Center with Dr. Delcore and Dr. Robinson, circulating in the OR and working Same Day/PACU and assisting with the administrative duties.

## Ryan Obremski

Even before graduation I knew I wanted to pursue a Masters degree in nursing, which drove me to Houston! Since graduating I have been blessed to be accepted into a Nurse Residency program at Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX. I work in the largest medical center in the world in the Inpatient Rehab Unit at Texas Medical Center and am planning to apply to the

Fall 2017 dual-degree MSN/MPH program at the University of Texas! I have felt well prepared, because of my education at SUU, to be a competent new nurse. SUU sets students up for success!

## Jaclyn Cooley

After graduation I accepted a job working on the Bone Marrow Transplant/Acute Leukemia floor at LDS hospital. It has been the most incredible experience and I have been lucky to work with such amazing patients and their families. My job has been very challenging but a good opportunity for me to gain knowledge and experience on every shift. I love being a nurse and am excited to see where my career goes!

## Lakyn Miller

Since graduating and passing the NCLEX, I have been working as a nurse full time at Parkway Health and Rehab. I love working with patients who care about their health and desire to be better. I recently had a baby and love being a mom but I also look forward to getting back to work as a nurse! I'm so grateful I attended SUU and truly believe their nursing program is the best!!

## Kelci Simmons

Life is great after graduation! The first time you get to sign RN behind your name is one of the best feelings in the whole world, and it really never gets old! I have already learned so much in caring for patients on my own, and even though it's the hardest thing I've ever done, I absolutely LOVE being a nurse!

## Katherine Hiatt

After graduating from SUU with my BSN, there have been many nursing opportunities and options to look into. I chose to apply for and become a part of the Intermountain Healthcare team because of their incredible mission and values they uphold in caring for patients. I have been accepted into their residency program and have begun my nursing career on the medical oncology floor at Dixie Regional Medical Center. I look forward to continue learning in my career and using my nursing education to help members in the community live healthier lives!

## Samantha Howard

I'm working at Parkway Health Center doing rehab nursing and I'm working PRN at Nephi hospital on the med surg floor. I'm loving nursing and am so happy to have such an amazing profession :)

## Kinsie Bushnell

Since graduating from nursing school, I have had the great opportunity to work as a nurse resident in central Texas. It is an amazing experience to finally put all those years of school into practice. I work with cardiac patients and have seen some of the coolest medical technology and met some incredible patients. Nurses are the best!

# New Scholarship Opportunities for SUU Nursing Program

April 26, 2016

Author: Lexi Carter



The Southern Utah University Department of Nursing will soon offer more student scholarships thanks to a partnership with Intermountain Healthcare.

Intermountain recently made a \$100,000 donation to the SUU Department of Nursing. As a result of this contribution, SUU will create a new scholarship program focused on cultural diversity in nursing and diversity in the healthcare workforce.

“Intermountain has been very generous,” said Donna Lister, Associate Professor of Nursing and Department

Chair at SUU. “This donation is all about our students. If you don’t have to worry about how to pay for tuition, it’s a huge load off your shoulders. We are so grateful for the additional opportunities this partnership offers our nurses.”

SUU’s Department of Nursing has recently increased enrollment numbers by 50 percent to accommodate the numerous applications received each year. The 2016 graduating class signifies the tenth year of nursing graduates from the university. The department strives to maintain high standards of classroom education, clinical experience and faculty/student interactions.

“As a not-for-profit healthcare system, Intermountain Healthcare’s priority is to improve health in the communities we serve,” said Mikelle Moore, Vice President of Community Benefit for Intermountain Healthcare. “We are grateful to SUU for the efforts put forth in educating incoming nurses to the healthcare field. This new opportunity will help increase diversity among nurses and will be a huge benefit to nursing students at SUU.”

The success of SUU’s nursing program is seen through the graduates. The December 2015 graduating class marked the seventh group of nurses to achieve a 100 percent NCLEX-RN first-time pass rate.

Intermountain Healthcare is a not-for-profit health system based in Salt Lake City. Recognized for its excellent clinical care and low costs, Intermountain strives to help people live the healthiest lives possible. For more information, visit [www.intermountainhealthcare.org](http://www.intermountainhealthcare.org).