

Ottawa University Nursing Newsletter-Spring 2022

Ottawa University is a partner institution of higher education with MCCCCD & Concordia Community College for the Concurrent Nursing Program

~Dear Students~

We honor and thank you nurse warriors and heroes - our community of student nurses. You are a special group, the unstoppable ones, those preparing to advance in a life of significance during historically unsettled and uncertain times in healthcare and beyond. The howling winds of stress from too much to do and weariness of mind and body have not lessened commitment and tenacity to persevere. You are in battle...for a dream now within your grasp to achieve. Your nursing faculty and leadership team are part of your supply line. As the winds blow, and your flag is getting tossed about, reach out to those who need to know – your faculty. Stay connected!

~In OU Nursing Spirit,

Your Nursing Leadership Team

*Important Term Dates-

-Spring (1) 2022-1/10/22-3/5/22

-Spring (2) 2022-3/7/22-4/30/22

-Early Summer 2022-5/2/22-6/25/22

-Summer 2022-6/27/22-8/20/22

*Academic Advisors-available to help you!

-Overland Park Campus-Mitchell Kidd, Student Services Re-entry-Retention Specialist-Adult, Professional and Graduate Studies (APGS)-Ottawa University, 4370 W. 109th St., Ste. 200, Overland Park, KS-
Direct Phone-913-266-8651, Fax-913-273-1700
[Email-mitchell.kidd@ottawa.edu](mailto:mitchell.kidd@ottawa.edu)

-Arizona Campus-Heather Faustich, MAEd, Student Services Academic Advisor-Ottawa Phoenix-9414 N. 25th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85021-
Direct Phone-602-749-5204, Email-heather.faustich@ottawa.edu



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MY SSP (Student Support Program)

My SSP, a student support program aimed at supporting our student's overall well-being and mental health. My SSP has professionally trained counselors available at all times, day or night, ready to help students in need. This is a free service to all students.

Call or chat-anytime or anywhere.

Download the MySSP App or call 1-866-492-2252

My SSP can help you anytime with adapting to new challenges, being successful at school, stress and worry of daily life, relationship concerns, sadness and loneliness, uncertainty and much more.

INTRODUCTION TO OUR NURSING LEADERSHIP TEAM



Dr. Ruth Burkhart

Ruth Burkhart, DNP, MA, RN- BC, LPCC. Ruth holds a doctorate degree in nursing (doctor of nursing practice), a master's degree in nursing administration, and a master of arts degree in counseling. She is licensed as a Registered Nurse and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, and is a certified psychiatric/mental health nurse by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Dr. Burkhart's professional background includes psychiatric nursing, counseling, nursing and health care administration, staff development, education, and conference speaker. Dr. Burkhart's experience as an educator includes a three-year college/university teaching assignment in East Africa and as nursing faculty in the United States since 2007, teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels of education, and holding combined administrative and educator positions for part of that time. Dr. Burkhart was faculty at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico for several years, and currently is in the position of Director of Nursing and Associate Professor of Nursing position Ottawa University, Overland Park, Kansas, campus.

Dr. Burkhart has had several professional appointments to local, state, national and international councils and coalitions, including a past appointment to the New Mexico Governor's Mental Health Planning Council, and a two-year appointment to the Council of an international university in East Africa. She is a past White House appointee as Native American Representative to the Binational Substance Abuse Coalition (US/Mexico border). Dr. Burkhart's public speaking experience is in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, and cultural competency. She has been a faculty advisor of the Student Nurses Association, a Sigma Theta Tau and Pi Omega (international nursing honor society) board member, member of the American Nurses Association, past president of District 14 and state board member of the New Mexico Nurses Association, member of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), and co-founder and faculty advisor for NAMI on Campus New Mexico State University (NMSU). She was a participant in New Mexico's health care reform initiative, Health System Innovation, and regional implementation with this initiative through the Dona Ana Wellness Institute.



Dr. Diann DeWitt

Diann DeWitt has varied experience in medical-surgical nursing, critical-care nursing, administration, nursing research and nursing education spanning over 40 years. In addition to teaching in face-to-face, online, and hybrid environments, she enjoys curriculum development, program assessment, evaluation, and participation in accreditation attainment. Diann currently is an Associate Professor and Lead MSN Faculty at Ottawa University, Phoenix, AZ and has served in this capacity for four years. Prior to this position, she was the RN-BSN Director at Colorado Christian University, Lakewood, CO where she assisted in establishing both a prelicensure BSN program and an MSN program. Her educational background includes a PhD in Nursing from Indiana University, a Master of Science in Adult Health Nursing from the University of Illinois, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northern Illinois University. She is a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) from the National League for Nursing (NLN) and is a member of Nurses Christian Fellowship, NLN, AzLN, AzNA, and Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing. In addition to serving as current president for AzLN, Diann is a continuing education peer reviewer for AzNA. She is co-author of a book chapter regarding assessing and evaluating learning outcomes in Teaching in Nursing. Her research is related to spiritual care and how student nurses become ready to provide it.



Dr. Samantha Young

Samantha Young, DNP, APRN, CPNP-BC, PPCNP-BC

Assistant Professor of Nursing

DNP - Missouri State University

MSN - University of Missouri – Kansas City

Post-master's certificate - Missouri State University

BSN - University of Missouri – Kansas City

ADN - Metropolitan Community Colleges

Dr. Young's professional background includes pediatric nursing, faculty development, education, and extensive experience as a pediatric nurse practitioner specializing in child abuse and emergency department care. She has more than 20 years of nursing experience, including 12 years of nurse practitioner experience. Dr. Young's experience as an educator includes two years as a hospital based BSN clinical instructor for various universities, one year student teaching in an undergraduate nursing program, and two years teaching in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs prior to joining the nursing faculty at Ottawa University in 2020.



Ottawa University has a new **OUTstanding Nurse Award** to recognize excellence in nursing. This award will be given annually to a nurse or nurse in training who demonstrates excellence and will be recognized with a surprise gift of an unrestricted cash grant, balloons, and a banner recognizing their commitment to nursing excellence.

Criteria for Consideration:

- Must be a **nurse, nurse leader, nurse educator, or nurse in training**
- Demonstrates a commitment to be a team player and is a positive role model for others
- Goes above and beyond in their performance with specific personal characteristics or skills that make them stand out
- Supports and demonstrates the standards of nursing excellence

*Please use the QR code to the left to nominate!

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

-Mahatma Gandhi