



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
College of Nursing

AGGIE NURSE

MAGAZINE 2025



ANSWERING THE CALL
IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY **P16**

SETTING THE STANDARD
TEXAS A&M HEALTH CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE IN FORENSIC NURSING **P10**

BACKING AGGIE NURSES
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AGGIE NURSE

Aggie Nurse Magazine is published annually by the Texas A&M College of Nursing.

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ON THE COVER
Dr. LeRoy Marklund oversees the College of Nursing's delivery site at the Texas A&M University Higher Education Center at McAllen as assistant dean for undergraduate nursing education - McAllen.

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College of Nursing**
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MISSION

The mission of the College of Nursing is to educate professional nurses of today and leaders of tomorrow through the provision of excellent educational programs in nursing. The college will identify, attract and graduate students of high potential, especially those from groups who have been historically under-represented in Texas health care.

Furthermore, this mission will facilitate individuals, families and groups in achieving the maximum state of well-being through education of highly skilled nurses, research and service. The mission of the college will be enhanced through faculty contributions to community service, leadership, practice and research.

VISION

Our vision is to be a premier college of nursing and to educate and empower a diverse population of nurse leaders who will transform health and health systems through service, discovery and knowledge.

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Leann Horsley
PhD, MBA, RN, CHSE, CNE
Dean and Professor

HOWDY!

The opportunity to open a new brick-and-mortar delivery site does not come around that often in higher education, so you can imagine the excitement the College of Nursing feels about our expanded presence in McAllen. As you will read about in this year's edition of *Aggie Nurse Magazine*, we have had our eyes on the Rio Grande Valley for some time. The availability of our traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program there is the culmination of years of listening, studying, planning and, finally, executing.

The Texas A&M Nursing Education and Research Building, a state-of-the-art facility designed for educating nurses, is now part of the Texas A&M University Higher Education Center at McAllen. However, the significance is much more than a physical structure. The inaugural spring 2026 cohort will soon be serving South Texas communities.

While considerable time and effort were spent preparing to open the McAllen site, our college was also active in further developing and enhancing our education programs during the 2024-2025 academic year. We added a post-graduate certificate program in family nurse practitioner,

secured redesignation as a National League for Nursing Center of Excellence (COE) in Nursing Education and received initial accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for our Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and Post-Graduate Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner programs.

The growth and accolades are well deserved and the result of an extraordinarily talented team of faculty and staff. But an equally important measurement of success continues to be reflected in our Aggie nurses. From celebrating the graduation of our first DNP and Aggie Student-Centered Express Nursing Degree (ASCEND) groups to cheering on an aspiring family nurse practitioner who doubles as a professional pharmacist, the spirit of our students continues to inspire.

Whatever your connection to our college, we invite you to help us commemorate the accomplishments of the last year and join us in recognizing our role in shaping the future of nursing and health care in Texas, the nation and beyond.

Gig 'em!

Leann Horsley

“ The growth and accolades are well deserved and the result of an extraordinarily talented team of faculty and staff. ”



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LEADERS



ASSISTANT DEAN
FOR UNDERGRADUATE
NURSING EDUCATION - MCALLEN
DR. LEROY MARKLUND

LeRoy Marklund, DNP, MPH, RN, is the College of Nursing's inaugural leader at its McAllen site.

A more than 30-year veteran of the U.S. Army, Marklund joined Texas A&M in 2018 and has been active in interprofessional education, college committees, community outreach, student organization advisement and more.

Marklund earned his Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Maryland at Baltimore and Bachelor of Science in Nursing from California State University, Fresno. He also has advanced degrees in administrative leadership and agriculture and a long list of military education.



ASSOCIATE DEAN
FOR UNDERGRADUATE
NURSING EDUCATION
DR. ANGELA MULCAHY-SPENCE

Angela Mulcahy-Spence, PhD, RN, CMSRN, CHSE, oversees the College of Nursing's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs in Bryan-College Station, McAllen, Round Rock and online. She previously served as assistant dean for undergraduate nursing education for the Bryan-College Station site.

Mulcahy-Spence joined Texas A&M in 2012 and was instrumental in establishing the college's simulation program and enhancing baccalaureate offerings. She has also coordinated pre-licensure and honors programs.

In 2024, Mulcahy-Spence completed fellowships with AACN's Elevating Leaders in Academic Nursing (ELAN) and Texas A&M's Faculty Aspiring Leadership (FALP) programs. She holds a BSN from the University of Wyoming, Master of Science in Nursing from the University of North Dakota and PhD from The University of Texas at Tyler.



INTERIM ASSOCIATE DEAN
FOR RESEARCH
DR. RAMESH VEMULAPALLI

Ramesh Vemulapalli, BVSc&AH, MVSc, PhD, is executive associate dean of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (VMBS), a role he has retained while serving as the College of Nursing's interim associate dean for research.

Vemulapalli has been with VMBS for nearly a decade and in his current administrative role since 2022. He previously served as head of VMBS's Department of Veterinary Pathobiology for six years and spent 15 years at Purdue University in both faculty and administrative roles.

An expert in immunology and infectious disease, Vemulapalli received his veterinary training in India and later earned a PhD from the University of Maryland, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

FACULTY



◀ **BRAYTON AMIDON**
PHD, RN, CHSE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



◀ **GLENN BARNES**
DNP, RN, EMT-P, NHDP-BC,
FWEM, FAWM
CLINICAL ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR



◀ **ASHLEY GERMAINE**
MSN, RN, RNC-MNN
LECTURER IN CLINICAL
INSTRUCTION



◀ **BETTY GONZALES**
DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC,
NEA-BC, CCRN
CLINICAL ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR



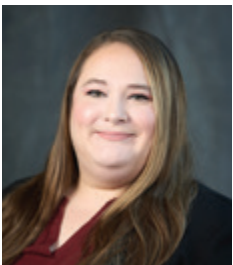
◀ **KATIE HEPFER**
DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC
CLINICAL ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR



◀ **ASHLEE KNAPP**
MSN, RN, CCRN
LECTURER IN CLINICAL
INSTRUCTION



◀ **LYNDSAY MACKAY**
PHD, RN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



◀ **MIRANDA RAMIREZ**
DNP, APRN, FNP-C,
PMHNP-BC, CCHP
CLINICAL ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR



◀ **JENNIFER REEVES**
DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
CLINICAL ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR



**FAHRENWALD
DESIGNATED
DEAN EMERITA**

NANCY FAHRENWALD,
PHD, RN, PHNA-BC, FAAN,
past dean of the
College of Nursing and
Texas A&M’s current
associate vice president
for University Health
Services, in fall 2024
was conferred the
designation of dean
emerita of the college by
The Texas A&M University
System Board of Regents.

Fahrenwald served as the
college’s dean from 2018 to
2022 and continues to maintain
a faculty position in nursing.

She transitioned from her deanship to oversee student health, counseling and emergency
medicine services as the top leader for University Health Services.

Fahrenwald’s tenure as dean saw growth in research funding, enrollment and academic
programs. She was instrumental in the launch of the Texas A&M Health Center of Excellence
in Forensic Nursing and secured funding for a nursing building at the Texas A&M Higher
Education Center at McAllen.

Board certified as an advanced public health nurse, Fahrenwald holds a Bachelor of Science
in Nursing from South Dakota State University, Master of Science in Nursing from the
University of Portland and PhD in Nursing from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.
She is also a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.



PROFESSOR DEDICATED TO
**IMPROVING
DIABETES CARE**



Dr. Cassie Moffitt

Cassie Moffitt, PhD, MSN, RN, CDCES, CNE, clinical assistant professor for the College of Nursing, hasn’t known a life without diabetes. She started showing symptoms of type 1 diabetes at just 17 months old, and it was her grandfather, who had type 2, that recognized the warning signs. Moffitt began going backward in her milestones, like walking and talking, and her condition only worsened from there.

“My grandfather noticed that I was losing weight and was wetting my diaper, so he took me to my pediatrician, who insisted I was too young to have diabetes,” Moffitt said. “But when he checked my blood sugar, it was over 300, so he sent me to a hospital in Dallas. By the time I got there, it was over 1,400. I almost didn’t make it through that day.”

A diabetes diagnosis so early on sparked an interest and desire in Moffitt to learn as much about it as possible. Every summer, she attended Texas Lions Camp, a camp for children with cancer, disabilities and diabetes. The experience ignited her passion for educating people about diabetes.

“From my experience working with Aggie nurses, I feel confident that if anything were ever happening to me, they would know how to take care of me and even save my life.” DR. CASSIE MOFFITT



After completing nursing school at Texas Woman’s University, Moffitt accepted her first job at a trauma center in Dallas. Given that many patients who came into the intensive care unit had diabetes, Moffitt honed her skills working specifically with patients battling the disease. Later, she went on to work the diabetes floor at Children’s Medical Center before landing a position as a diabetes educator at Dell Children’s in Austin.

In her current faculty role, Moffitt takes every opportunity to educate her students about diabetes and how best to care for patients with the disease, free of preconceived notions and associated stigmas.

“From my experience working with Aggie nurses, I feel confident

that if anything were ever happening to me, they would know how to take care of me and even save my life,” Moffitt said. “They would know that they need to talk to me as a person with feelings, a person who is more than just diabetes.”

Another way Moffitt currently serves diabetes patients is as a counselor at Texas Lions Camp, the diabetes camp she attended herself throughout her childhood. As a counselor there for the past 13 summers, she relishes the opportunity to educate children on diabetes technology. She says she’ll be forever grateful for the camp and can think of no better way to show it than to give back in the same way.

Working as a counselor enables

Moffitt to form meaningful relationships with campers. But advocating for effective and compassionate diabetes care goes beyond patient responsibility. Moffitt wants to ensure that care providers know not just how to treat diabetes patients’ immediate physical needs but also understand and address the disease at the core of symptoms.

“It’s very tiring to have a chronic medical condition where every move you make could affect whether or not you survive,” Moffitt said. “That’s why I love having the opportunity to stay at a patient’s side and show them I’m here with them.”

Moffitt’s goal is simply to continue this important work. She finished a PhD in nursing from The University of Texas at Tyler in 2025. Her doctoral dissertation focused on diabetes devices and school nurses.

Moffitt also serves as the education lead for the Texas Coordinating Body of Diabetes Educators, where she works to develop and improve education on the prevention and management of diabetes and related conditions.

“My work at its core is to make this disease less scary because it’s not going away anytime soon,” Moffitt said. “So let’s do the best with what we have and educate as much as possible.”



Moffitt celebrates a successful defense of her PhD in nursing.

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN FORENSIC NURSING, INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE PARTNER TO IMPROVE FORENSIC HEALTH CARE

Indian Health Service (IHS), the federal agency responsible for providing health care to Native Americans and Alaska Natives, is collaborating with the Texas A&M Health Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing on a nearly \$5.5 million contract to help enhance its forensic health care activities.

The five-year contract helps IHS ensure its providers are equipped to offer trauma-informed care to survivors of violent crimes like sexual assault and abuse, domestic violence, intimate partner violence, strangulation, human trafficking and more. The center customized its internationally recognized continuing education program to train IHS providers and is advising on local program improvements and sustainability strategies.

“All Indigenous peoples deserve access to the best forensic health care, and we applaud IHS for working to strengthen services and support in this area,” said Stacey Mitchell, DNP, MBA, MEd, RN, AFN-C, IVSE-C, SANE-A, SANE-P, DF-AFN, FAAN, director of the center and a clinical professor in the College of Nursing. “This collaboration means those affected by

violence will have better access to trauma-informed, patient-centered care.”

Part of the center’s focus is certifying more sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs) to serve in IHS’s network of hospitals, clinics and health centers, which are primarily located on or near Native American reservations and tribal lands. There is a shortage of these specially trained nurses, especially in rural areas, Mitchell said.

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, native women in the United States are twice as likely as other races to experience sexual assault or violence.

The center also offers general forensic health care continuing education to IHS physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses and registered nurses.

While much of the education activities are delivered virtually through a digital learning management system, the center also operates a state-of-the-art mobile simulation unit. This custom vehicle allows for site visits to conduct hands-on training and other consultation activities.



FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATE ADDED

The College of Nursing has expanded its pathway to family nurse practitioner certification to include an online post-graduate certificate.

The Post-Graduate Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner is designed for those holding a graduate degree in nursing who want to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Family Nurse Practitioner and American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification exams to be licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN). The college also offers a Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner, which is available to bachelor’s-prepared nurses seeking the same certification and

licensure. The college has a 100% pass rate for the national nurse practitioner exams.

Family nurse practitioners are primary care providers who focus on health promotion, risk reduction, disease prevention, illness management and more.

Coursework is delivered asynchronously online over five semesters. Clinical hours are completed in the students’ own communities with limited on-campus time in Bryan-College Station.

Students in the FNP certificate program who work in rural areas are eligible for the college’s Rural Engagement Scholarship, which provides \$375,000 annually to nurses seeking advanced education.



ONLINE RN-TO-BSN PROGRAM BEST IN TEXAS

Texas A&M University’s online bachelor’s degree program, delivered exclusively via the College of Nursing’s RN-to-BSN offering, is No. 1 in Texas and the 12th best in the country, according to the 2025 U.S. News and World Report Best Online Programs rankings.

The RN-to-BSN program is designed for registered nurses with an associate degree in nursing seeking to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing

(BSN). The online curriculum can be completed in 12 or 15 months while students complete individual practicum experiences in their own communities.

The BSN available through the RN-to-BSN track is the only Texas A&M undergraduate degree available entirely online.

Methodologies for the rankings consider factors like engagement, service and technologies, faculty credentials and training, and peer assessment.

‘TRAUMA-INFORMED, PATIENT-CENTERED’ APPROACH SUSTAINS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN FORENSIC NURSING

Review the laundry list of accomplishments and accolades for the Texas A&M Health Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing, and you may think it’s been around for 20 years. Officially, it’s been just a quarter of that.

In fall 2024, the center hosted local and state elected officials, community leaders and other supporters to commemorate five years as a Texas A&M University System Board of Regents-approved center. The event dually served as the unofficial grand opening of the center’s new headquarters in Bryan, which includes more offices, instruction space and clinical simulation capabilities.

So how has the center developed into a national lynchpin for the forensic nursing field in such a short time?



Dr. Stacey Mitchell (center), director of the Texas A&M Health Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing, celebrates the grand opening of the center’s new headquarters in Bryan with her team and Dr. Leann Horsley (left), dean of the College of Nursing.

The first Master of Science in Nursing–Forensic Nursing cohort graduated in 2019.



“Everything at the center can be traced back to our commitment to providing trauma-informed, person-centered care to those affected by violence and disaster,” said Stacey Mitchell, DNP, MBA, MEd, RN, AFN-C, IVSE-C, SANE-A, SANE-P, DF-AFN, FAAN, founding director of the center and a clinical professor at the College of Nursing.

FILLING A NEED

About a decade ago, Texas was dealing with a shortage of forensic health care experts, an issue particularly acute in the state’s rural areas. It allocated funding to the college to develop graduate education and outreach programs in forensic nursing. This nursing specialty is designed to deliver care to individuals who experience trauma, abuse, neglect and violence.

The college got to work. By 2017, it had launched a graduate certificate in forensic health care. A year later, it was offering a Master of Science in Nursing with a concentration in forensic nursing.

A comprehensive outreach and training strategy was running in tandem to the education programs. The Texas Attorney General’s Office in 2017 appointed the college to run its statewide sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE)

certification program and handle other forensic health care projects. The most common entry point into forensic health care, SANEs are specially trained to care for survivors of sexual violence.

“There wasn’t a blueprint for how to build this, so we designed our own,” Mitchell said. “We pride ourselves on maintaining high standards and seeking out the top experts in forensic nursing to ensure our learners are best equipped to care for the patients who need them at a very vulnerable time.”

With the infrastructure in place, leaders at the college applied to become a Board of Regents-approved center, which requires significant externally supported research and education that “extend beyond the individual interest or a single department or unit.” Then Chancellor John Sharp recommended and the board approved creation of the center to operate within the college in fall of 2019.

SETTING THE STANDARD

The center’s continuing education program is renowned for guiding nurses to SANE certification

and delivering unique learning opportunities in forensic health care. Many of the courses are delivered online, while others require learners to visit the center’s simulation space. Recently, the center began offering education via its mobile simulation center, which is a specially designed recreational vehicle that visits rural areas.

Courses include a mock testimony experience that prepares SANEs to testify in court, medical forensic photography bootcamp for documenting injuries, human trafficking response and more.

Annually, the center delivers more than 30,000 hours of continuing education.

In addition to serving as the state’s provider of SANE training, the center is contracted by Indian Health Service (IHS), the federal agency that provides health care to Native Americans and Alaska Natives, to deliver forensic health care education to IHS providers.

“I believe the center represents the standard in forensic nursing” said Leann Horsley, PhD, MBA, RN, CHSE, CNE, dean of the

30,000+
CONTINUING
EDUCATION HOURS



college. “The proof is certainly in the federal and state support the center has received, but just as important is the person-first philosophy that is foundational to all of the center’s activities.”

TECH-SAVVY NURSES

The center embraces technology, according to Mitchell.

“Technology allows us to maximize our reach,” she said. “Whether through our continuing education programs or efforts that directly touch patients, we can make Texas, and the country, smaller by insisting on modernization.”

The Texas Teleforensic Remote Assistance Center (Tex-TRAC) deploys specially designed telehealth equipment running proprietary software to rural hospitals, connecting them to SANEs to conduct sexual assault examinations. Around 20 SANEs from the center are on-call 24 hours a day to help clinicians in more than a dozen facilities help their patients.

You also might see learners using a virtual reality headset to run through a forensic examination, a forensic nursing experience unique to the center. Designed through a partnership with the Texas A&M College of Performance, Visualization & Fine Arts, the virtual-reality environment is a safe place for nurses to refine their skills ahead of seeing real patients.

The Texas Evidence Collection Protocol, a standardized guide for the state’s health care and law enforcement professionals to respond to sexual assault,



The Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing delivers some of its training through virtual reality technology.

has transitioned from a nearly 130-page document to an interactive website. Another digital project is a document repository for young forensic nursing programs.

REACHING MORE

With a team now approaching 20, the center has its eyes set on serving more people nationally and globally. It wants to strengthen research efforts and explore ways to deploy its digital offerings, including Tex-TRAC and virtual reality, to more partners and universities.

The college is planning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice program with a concentration in forensic nursing, infusing the field with more needed experts.

“We’re incredibly proud of what our young but influential center has accomplished,” Mitchell said. “But we’re equally grateful to have made a positive impact on the communities we serve.”

TEXAS A&M HEALTH CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN FORENSIC NURSING HISTORY





Dr. Nicole Peters Kroll



Dr. Paul Thomas Clements

TWO FACULTY SELECTED AS AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING FELLOWS

College of Nursing faculty members **Nicole Peters Kroll, PhD, APRN, ANP-C, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, FAAN**, and **Paul Thomas Clements, PhD, RN, ANEF, CGS, DF-IAFN, DF-AFN, FAAN**, are among the nurse leaders in the 2025 class of fellows of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN).

A clinical associate professor, Peters Kroll’s career has spanned academia, administration and clinical practice. At Texas A&M, she serves as the principal investigator on nearly \$9 million in grants to improve access to health care in rural and medically underserved areas through mobile care and telehealth. In addition to holding faculty and administrative appointments in higher education, Peters Kroll has maintained a clinical practice as a nurse practitioner, including for the college’s mobile clinic program, which she oversees, and Texas A&M University Health Services.

Peters Kroll has a PhD in nursing from The University

of Texas at Tyler, a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) from Texas Woman’s University and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from The University of Texas Medical Branch. She also holds post-master’s certificates in psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner and family nurse practitioner from Liberty University and the University of Massachusetts Boston, respectively.

Clements is a clinical professor who works with the college’s Texas A&M Health Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing. An expert in violence prevention, trauma-informed care and behavioral assessment, he is a widely published scholar with

dozens of peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and books. Clements joined Texas A&M in 2022 after faculty and administrative roles at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Drexel University; Old Dominion University; and the University of New Mexico.

Clements earned his PhD in psychiatric forensic nursing and MSN in child and family psychiatric mental health nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. He holds a BSN from Wilmington University. Clements is also a distinguished fellow of both the Academy of Forensic Nursing and International Association of Forensic Nurses.



COLLEGE OF NURSING
AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF NURSING FELLOWS

DR. PAUL THOMAS CLEMENTS

DR. NANCY FAHRENWALD

DR. STACEY MITCHELL

DR. MARIA OLENICK

DR. ROBIN PAGE

DR. NICOLE PETERS KROLL

DR. MATTHEW SORENSON



REDESIGNATION ACHIEVED

The College of Nursing was again redesignated as a **Center of Excellence (COE) in Nursing Education** by the National League for Nursing in 2025.

The NLN’s COE designation is designed for colleges of nursing and health care organizations that have achieved a level of excellence in student learning and professional development. Just 21 nursing education programs were selected as COEs for the 2025 cycle. The college achieved initial COE designation in 2016 and redesignation in 2020.

The National League for Nursing offers professional development, networking opportunities, testing services, nursing research grants and public policy initiatives to its nearly 45,000 individual and 1,000 institutional members, comprising nursing education programs across the spectrum of higher education and health care organizations.



Dr. LeRoy Marklund
Assistant Dean for
Undergraduate Nursing
Education - McAllen

How the **College of Nursing** answered the Rio Grande Valley's call for Aggie nurses

YEARS IN THE MAKING

IT'S IMPORTANT TO LEANN HORSLEY, PHD, MBA, RN, CHSE, CNE, DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, THAT THE STUDENTS AND REGION KNOW: THE PROGRAM IS THE SAME ONE AGGIES STUDYING IN BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION HAVE COME TO TRUST AND LEVERAGE WHEN IT'S TIME TO ENTER THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE.

Spring 2026 marks the start of the inaugural cohort of 24 students at the Texas A&M Higher Education Center at McAllen.



The Nursing Education and Research Building at the Texas A&M Higher Education Center at McAllen.



Todd Stricherz (College of Nursing), Dr. James Batchelder (College of Nursing), Dr. Daniel P. King (Region One Education Service Center), Dr. Leann Horsley (College of Nursing) and Patty Rabel (Texas A&M Foundation) visit the HECM construction site in March 2025.



“There are a lot of extraordinary qualities of an Aggie nurse, but perhaps the best is that they go where they are needed.”

DR. LEANN HORSLEY, DEAN, COLLEGE OF NURSING



“The same curriculum, the same rigor around finding the best faculty and clinical partners and the same diploma — and Aggie Ring — upon graduation,” Horsley notes. “We just now offer it in the Valley so these aspiring nurses can study close to home.”

Horsley is referring to the college’s expansion in the Rio Grande Valley, which includes an in-person option for its popular and competitive traditional Bachelor of Science (BSN) degree delivered at the Texas A&M University Higher Education Center at McAllen (HECM).

Spring 2026 marks the start of the inaugural cohort of 24 students at HECM, which anchors the scenic Tres Lagos development on the north side of a growing McAllen.

The region is eager for more nurses, according to community, health care and education leaders.

“There are a lot of extraordinary qualities of an Aggie nurse, but perhaps the best is that they go where they are needed,” said Horsley.

PATIENT PROGRESSION

The college’s formal entry into the Valley is years in the making. Just ask Deb Wise, PhD, RN, a now-retired administrator and educator in the college who nearly a decade ago was tasked by then-dean Sharon Wilkerson, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, to explore what a BSN program offered by Texas A&M in McAllen might look like. The university had already offered select courses and degrees in McAllen

since 2004, and the college even placed an advisor there in 2014 to help with recruiting and outreach.

Wise connected with colleague Nora Montalvo-Liendo, PhD, RN, FAAN, the college’s lone faculty member in the Valley who maintained office space there for her research on violence and abuse. Montalvo-Liendo, also now retired, connected Wise to influential community members who told the longtime nurse educator how badly they needed more nurses in the region.

Moved by their passion and opportunity, Wise recalls getting emotional on one of her many six-hour treks back to Bryan-College Station.

“I thought to myself how

education and health care are the foundation of a community,” Wise said. “And we know how to do that.”

Wise got to work, inviting chief nursing officers and clinical education leaders from across the region to form a clinical advisory board. Soon, she and others were meeting with cities and their development boards, elected officials and school systems across the Valley. Their feedback remained consistent: They wanted Aggie nurses.

“I don’t know that I’ve been in a community that is so engaged to get things done,” Wise said. “And when I took our people down there, that was evident. People immediately felt it.”

You could also see it. The HECM campus opened in 2018, offering

bachelor’s degree programs in engineering and public health.

The Texas A&M team working in McAllen made visits to the Valley regularly, understanding more with each trip about what another nursing program could mean for the area from leaders like Daniel P. King, PhD, executive director of the Region One Education Service Center. The Edinburg-based organization, which is one of 20 regional service centers in Texas supported by state funding, helps schools in deep South Texas with a variety of education-related services, including identifying career pathways and promoting college readiness.

“We know there is a statewide shortage of RNs, but it’s more



Former College of Nursing faculty members Dr. Nora Montalvo-Liendo and Dr. Deb Wise and Patty Rabel, the Texas A&M Foundation's senior director of development for nursing, celebrate the groundbreaking of the Nursing Education and Research Building.



Dr. LeRoy Marklund, assistant dean for undergraduate nursing education - McAllen, and Dr. Angela Mulcahy-Spence, associate dean for undergraduate nursing education, tour the Nursing Education and Research Building while it was under construction.

exacerbated here,” King said. “Our nursing programs in the Valley have grown and are doing a great job, but they don’t have enough seats. We have a lot of qualified students who graduate from high school and want to go into nursing.”

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies projects that the state’s supply of registered nurses will be more than 56,000, or 18%, short of the demand by 2036. In the Valley, the difference is expected to approach more than 6,000, or 30%.

By 2020, the pieces were in place to begin addressing those figures. Funding was earmarked, land was identified at HECM and plans were ready for approval by the necessary state and nursing agencies. But the COVID-19 pandemic forced the higher education community to collectively pause and shift focus.

After reworking project timelines and familiarizing new university leaders on the Valley’s nagging need for talented nurses like Aggies, Texas A&M broke ground on the Nursing Education and Research Building on the HECM campus in January 2024. The facility features four nursing classrooms, study areas and a 10,000-square-foot clinical simulation center.

“The excitement around Aggie nurses having access to our BSN program in the Valley is shared between the region and Texas A&M,” Horsley said. “These students understand their

communities and will be best suited to serve the unique needs of the people living there.”

King, whose nearly 50-year career in education has all been in the Valley, recognizes the significance of earning a Texas A&M degree close to home.

“Having [the program] here locally makes it more likely the graduates will fill local positions,” he said.

MCALLEN’S VETERAN LEADER

The college turned to a familiar face to oversee its presence in McAllen. LeRoy Marklund, DNP, MPH, RN, a clinical associate professor who served more than 30 years in the U.S. Army before entering higher education, was named assistant dean for undergraduate nursing education – McAllen in August 2025.

Marklund’s reputation as an engaged educator and strong leader — something he directly attributes to his time in the military — is well known among his students and colleagues in Bryan-College Station, where he has taught since 2018.

“Dr. Marklund is uniquely qualified to lead our expansion in McAllen,” said Horsley. “He deeply understands what it means to be an Aggie nurse working through our program. He has a special ability to build relationships with students, which is critical at a distant site where connection back to our other campuses is important to remind us all that we are one



Community leaders, lawmakers, clinical partners and representatives from The Texas A&M University System and Texas A&M University.

Texas A&M. Dr. Marklund is also the quintessential example of what it means to live the Aggie Core Values.”

A second-career nurse who transitioned to the profession in his 30s after working in agriculture and land management, Marklund is responsible for an initial faculty roster of three in McAllen. He often reflects on how his military career has prepared him to lead in nursing education.

“Just like in the military, nurses don’t work alone; the success of our team depends on how we can support each other,” Marklund said. “Demonstrating strong leadership and compassionately care are traits that are required of both soldiers and nurses.”

Marklund, whose two sons Neil ’18 and Lee ’19 are Aggies, retired from the U.S. Army in 2018 and had originally planned to teach for three years before he and his wife,

Happy, pursued life after work full time. But his foray into education, enriched by a veteran-friendly Texas A&M, proved too fulfilling, and he felt compelled to defer shuffleboard in favor of his stethoscope.

“Working and connecting with students is incredibly rewarding,” Marklund said. “Texas A&M fosters an environment for Aggies to be successful, and I have observed and experienced that firsthand while teaching in Bryan-College Station. The opportunity to extend that impact to the Valley is a humbling opportunity.”

‘NEVER ALONE’

Horsley says her visits to McAllen these days remain exciting because of the area’s vibrancy and potential for more Aggies to make an impact.

“There was so much positive buildup to our program in the Valley,

and it has finally come to fruition,” Horsley said. “We feel welcome and privileged to serve this region. But we continue to look at ways to best help our communities there thrive and be healthy. The work of an Aggie nurse is never done.”

The college is continuing to develop clinical and education partnerships and explore ways its students and faculty can enjoy the benefits of the McAllen and Texas A&M communities.

And for Marklund, who is quick to share about his military experience that he “always met an Aggie, at home and abroad,” the opportunity to honor old traditions in a new place is special.

“HOW EXCITING FOR THESE STUDENTS TO BE ABLE TO STAY CLOSE TO HOME AND ENTER THE AGGIE NETWORK, WHERE THEY’LL NEVER BE ALONE,” MARKLUND SAID.

AGGIE FIRSTS: INAUGURAL COHORTS GRADUATE

AGGIE STUDENT-CENTERED EXPRESS NURSING DEGREE (ASCEND)

Josh Kim was looking for flexibility, not only in a career but in the path he took to reach that career. He also wanted to be an Aggie. This combination led him to enroll in the Aggie Student-Centered Express Nursing Degree (ASCEND) program, a collaboration between the College of Nursing and Blinn College that graduated its inaugural cohort of 12 students in fall 2024.

ASCEND offers students a pathway to complete an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree from Blinn and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from Texas A&M while co-enrolled in both institutions. The program is a version of the College of Nursing's RN-to-BSN degree plan available exclusively to Blinn students, who can earn their BSN in as little as one semester after completing their associate degree.

"One of the reasons I wanted to go into nursing is that it's so flexible," Kim said. "I always wanted to go to A&M but wasn't at a place where I could enroll right off the bat. So I went to Blinn first, and the ASCEND opportunity popped up. I liked the idea of getting my bachelor's really soon after I got my associate."

Texas is asking for more nurses and nurse

leaders, including those who are bachelor's prepared, according to Wendy Greenwood, DNP, MS, RN, AGCNS-BC, CPAN, CNOR, CNEcl, coordinator of the College of Nursing's RN-to-BSN program.

"With ASCEND, we wanted to create a quicker path for nurses to get their BSNs and help meet the workforce demand," Greenwood said. "While creating nurses is our mandate, we strive to create exceptional Aggie nurse leaders."

Even with taking his Texas A&M classes entirely online while living in the Austin area, Kim said there was a sense of community, support and collaboration among peers and professors. He also enjoyed getting additional hands-on experience in the nursing field.

Kim shadowed College of Nursing Executive Associate Dean Lisa Haddad, PhD, MSHCA, RN, for his leadership clinical. He assisted Haddad in several administrative projects, including a comprehensive review of nursing student handbooks. Kim also served as a representative on the Texas A&M

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, where he enjoyed having a hand in shaping the program for future learners. "Josh is representative of the type of student working through our ASCEND program," Haddad said. "He created a plan to become a professional nurse and followed through. When we hear from employers about how well-prepared Aggie nurses are, they are talking about people like Josh."

Greenwood is inspired by Kim and the inaugural group of ASCEND graduates.

"It has been an honor leading this cohort through the program," Greenwood said. "I'm so proud and confident that we are sending a spectacular group of nurses into the field with their BSNs. Aggie nurses think broader, act as change agents within their chosen specialties and elevate the practice of those around them."

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE-LEADERSHIP

It's a proud day when any Aggie nurse graduates, let alone a program's inaugural cohort. That's why fall 2024 felt especially momentous as the first students from the College of Nursing's Doctor of Nursing Practice-Leadership program donned their hoods and secured brand new credentials.

The advanced DNP degree prepares graduates for practice-based leadership and builds on the experience and education students already hold as professional nurses.

Jessica Gallegos was part of the 12-student cohort. She chose to get her DNP partly because she wanted the challenge of an inaugural



The College of Nursing's first DNP-Leadership cohort.

program but also because of her Aggie husband, who graduated in 2010 and enjoys Aggie camaraderie even in San Antonio.

"I definitely wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself," Gallegos said. "The connection to Texas A&M and the community has been a wonderful thing for my partner to lean into. I thought it'd be great if I could have that as well."

Fellow DNP student Christopher Joyal had firsthand experience of the Aggie culture. Having already earned his Master of Science in Nursing-Nursing Education from the college, Joyal knew he wanted to return for his DNP.

"I had a great experience getting my master's at Texas A&M," Joyal said. "When I heard the DNP program was coming to fruition, I jumped all over it. The professors are phenomenal and they're always willing to do anything to make us successful."

Both Gallegos and Joyal affirmed that their fellow students offered each other the support and encouragement Aggies are so known

for. They appreciated the flexibility and receptiveness of the professors and enjoyed learning together as they went along.

"It was nice knowing we were all kind of in it together, professors included," Gallegos said. "It was great how collaborative it was and how we were able to help shape the program for future cohorts."

With new credentials, professional goals vary from student to student. Joyal, who works as director of the neonatal intensive care unit at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, plans to move into senior leadership and incorporate his degree in nursing education by teaching. Gallegos, on the other hand, hopes to take a more active role in policy changes.

"I think having my doctorate will help me be even more validated in my profession," Gallegos said. "It's not just limited to what I can do in clinical settings. I also want to have a hand in change at a systems level, and I think my DNP will just give me that confidence to want a seat at those tables."



The College of Nursing's first ASCEND cohort.



Josh Kim

“When we hear from employers about how well-prepared Aggie nurses are, they are talking about people like Josh.”

DR. LISA HADDAD
EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE DEAN

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS 

BLENDING PHARMACY AND NURSING FOR MAXIMUM REACH

Ali Moballegh, PharmD, BSN, RN, is a pharmacist and an Aggie nurse.

Moballegh is pursuing his Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner at the College of Nursing. But he's not changing his career — far from it. He currently works as an in-patient pharmacist for Select Medical in Temple and hopes to enhance his practice with his nursing master's degree.

“As a pharmacist, you need to memorize a lot of things. But as a nurse, you need to develop a lot of hands-on skills.”

ALI MOBALLEGH

“I felt that I was underutilizing my pharmacy degree as a pharmacist only,” Moballegh said. “I want to use my knowledge as a pharmacist to be able to diagnose and prescribe. I want to expand and utilize my pharmacy degree and knowledge to the maximum.”

After earning his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Houston in 2021, Moballegh returned to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing via its accelerated nursing program. He then moved to Georgetown, Texas, where he briefly worked as a medical-surgical nurse at Baylor Scott & White in Round Rock and discovered an interest in primary care. This inspired him to pursue the family nurse practitioner program at Texas A&M. Having only worked as a pharmacist up until that point, Moballegh also gained a newfound respect for the strenuous requirements of nurses.

“You have to be completely selfless and sacrifice a lot for your patients,” Moballegh said. “While pharmacy is very stressful sometimes, it's easier to have a balance between your life and your work. As a pharmacist, you need to memorize a lot of things. But as a

nurse, you need to develop a lot of hands-on skills. I greatly appreciate what nurses do. They are angels, and not everybody can do the job.”

Moballegh said that going through the family nurse practitioner program — which is delivered online with some in-person clinical requirements — as a working pharmacist has been challenging. But it also comes with its advantages. While many nursing students find pharmacology to be one of the toughest courses, for Moballegh, it was simply the work he does every day.

Moballegh is still considering how his nursing journey will develop, but he has a vision for what his career might look like after he graduates, which he expects to do in 2027. He plans to continue working as a pharmacist in the Austin area and begin serving as a family nurse practitioner. He could even see himself returning to school to get his Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

A little further down the line, Moballegh hopes to use his nursing and pharmacy degrees under one roof in a practice of his own

serving rural areas.

“I'd love to start a local clinic that makes health care easily accessible for people who are underserved,” Moballegh said. “I'd include pharmacy services and provide treatment for non-serious issues like a sore throat. If people don't have access or insurance and they cannot afford a copay, they just ignore things, and it can cause complications. If they have something affordable and accessible, we can prevent these complications.”

Whatever is in the cards for Moballegh after graduation, he's eager to expand his reach with MSN credentials in hand and believes becoming an Aggie nurse was the right choice.

“I HAVE ENJOYED BEING A TEXAS A&M STUDENT,” MOBALLEGH SAID. “IT'S BEEN THE PERFECT FIT AND HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO CONTINUE WORKING FULL TIME WHILE GETTING MY MASTER'S. I'VE LOVED THE CURRICULUM AND THE FACULTY. I'VE EXPERIENCED MANY UNIVERSITIES, BUT I THINK I CAN SAY TEXAS A&M IS THE BEST I'VE HAD.”

RAIN OR SHINE

DISASTER DAY PARTICIPANTS RESPOND TO MOCK TRAIN DERAILMENT

More than 600 Texas A&M University students braved rain alongside Texas A&M Health Science Center (Texas A&M Health) faculty and staff to conduct the 17th annual Disaster Day during the spring 2025 semester.

As the nation's largest student-led, interprofessional emergency response simulation, Disaster Day provides students with critical life-saving skills required in disaster situations.

The 2025 exercise saw students navigating a simulated train derailment with complications arising from a hazardous materials spill at Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service's (TEEX) Disaster City, a 52-acre mock city that simulates real disasters and serves as a training facility for emergency responders. Event participants engaged in triage at the disaster site, patient care at mock field hospitals, mental health care and needs assessment at an evacuation shelter, and disaster management and simulation oversight.

Disaster Day affords student participants the opportunity to develop vital skillsets with the potential to substantially impact Texas communities, said Christine Kaunas, EdD, MPH, assistant vice president for



College of Nursing students collaborate with other health disciplines during Disaster Day.

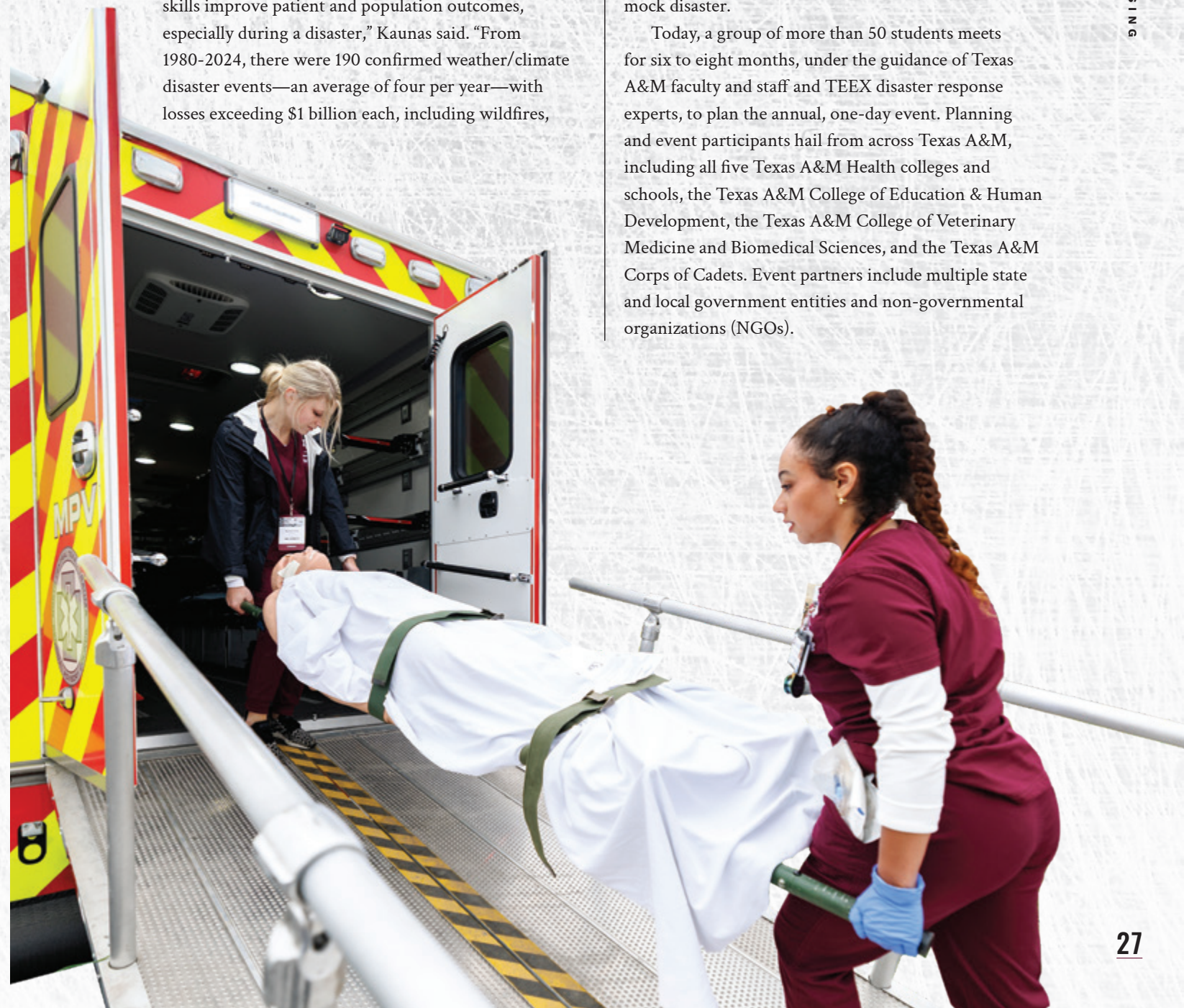
Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research, the Texas A&M Health office that oversees the coordination of the event in concert with a student planning committee. In addition to disaster-response skills and disciplinary skills within individual fields like medicine, pharmacy or public health, students also learn team-based skills by practicing alongside other professions.

"Research shows that well-developed collaborative skills improve patient and population outcomes, especially during a disaster," Kaunas said. "From 1980-2024, there were 190 confirmed weather/climate disaster events—an average of four per year—with losses exceeding \$1 billion each, including wildfires,

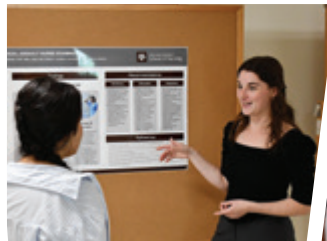
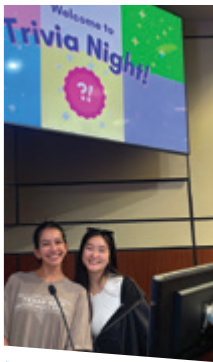
tropical storms, hurricanes and winter storms. Disaster Day equips our students to stand on the front lines, ready to serve when disaster strikes."

Disaster Day began in 2008 with a group of 35 students from the College of Nursing who, after watching Texas A&M provide disaster relief to the more than 650 individuals displaced to College Station by Hurricane Rita, conducted their own, day-long mock disaster.

Today, a group of more than 50 students meets for six to eight months, under the guidance of Texas A&M faculty and staff and TEEX disaster response experts, to plan the annual, one-day event. Planning and event participants hail from across Texas A&M, including all five Texas A&M Health colleges and schools, the Texas A&M College of Education & Human Development, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets. Event partners include multiple state and local government entities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).



A LOOK BACK



2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR



**FUELING THE FUTURE
OF NURSING**

Spend some time with Sue and Joe Knowles, MD, ‘50, and you’ll hear about their admiration for nurses.

There’s good reason for the Knowles’ penchant for the profession. Joe spent more than three decades as an OB-GYN in the rural community of Borger in the panhandle of Texas. Oftentimes, he remembers, the setting of his practice meant it was just he and a nurse tending to complex emergency cases that couldn’t be referred to larger facilities. It required humility and collaboration, he said.

“They were there for me,” said Joe of the nurses he worked with over his career. “A lot of times they know more about what is going on with these patients than you do. Pay attention to what they tell you. You all are a team. It’s up to you all to figure out what the problem is and how to make it better.”

The Knowles are the College of Nursing’s most generous scholarship funders. Since 2018, the couple has donated more than \$1.6 million to support Aggie nurses through endowed scholarships that are awarded every semester. To date, more than 30 students have received support from the Knowles while pursuing a Texas A&M nursing degree.

Their legacy is firmly established. The Knowles have also committed to a planned \$7 million estate gift that will be shared between the colleges of nursing and medicine to support students who want to practice in rural Texas, areas that are desperately in need of health care professionals trained at institutions like Texas A&M.

“I feel like I get more out of it than the nurses do, because of what they are going to be and what they are going to mean to somebody,” said Sue. “Nurses impact every patient.”

“THE IMPACT OF THE KNOWLES’ GENEROSITY CAN BE SEEN IN THE AGGIE NURSES WHO EXCELLED HERE AT TEXAS A&M AND HAVE TAKEN THEIR EXPERTISE TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS TEXAS,” SAID LEANN HORSLEY, PHD, MBA, RN, CHSE, CNE, DEAN OF THE COLLEGE. “WHEN YOU THINK OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN AGGIE, YOU THINK OF SUE AND JOE.”

THE RECIPIENTS

TARA HUYNH



**Bachelor of Science
in Nursing
Class of 2023
Round Rock, Texas**

As the youngest of six siblings in a one-income household, there were moments when Aggie nurse Tara Huynh ‘23 was uncertain if college was

in her future. And if it was, the financial obligations were hers. But the Round Rock native isn’t one to shy away from responsibility. Huynh loaded up on dual-credit courses in high school, was accepted to Texas A&M and supported herself as a patient care tech at Baylor Scott and White while studying in Bryan-College Station. She even trimmed a year off the traditional college experience, securing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in just three years.

For the self-starter from Round Rock, receiving a Sue and Joe Knowles ‘50 Nursing Scholarship profoundly and positively influenced her ability to navigate the demands of nursing school.

“I didn’t have to work as much because of their generosity,” Huynh said. “It allowed me to focus on how I could be a better Aggie nurse for my patients.”

Now a two-year veteran of the cardiovascular unit at Dell Seton Medical Center at The University of Texas where she’s worked since graduating, Huynh has considered seeking an advanced nursing degree in the future, perhaps in nurse anesthesia. For now, she is enjoying life in Austin as an early career nurse who made it through college without taking on loans, something she knows the Knowles played a role in.

Their philanthropy, Huynh believes, is visionary and a source of inspiration for her and other Aggie nurses.

“[The Knowles] care about the community and the impact that the next generation’s going to make,” she said. “I’m lucky to be working as an Aggie nurse and have graduated from the Texas A&M College of Nursing because of them.”

NAYELLI LOPEZ



**Bachelor of Science
in Nursing
Class of 2026
Kyle, Texas**

“Tears of joy,” remembers Nayelli Lopez ‘26. That was her reaction to finding out she was the recipient of

a Sue and Joe Knowles ‘50 Nursing Scholarship.

“It makes me feel seen,” she said.

Lopez, like many students, knew she would need to work her way through college and has made extra money as a substitute teacher to cover her expenses. She still moonlights in the classroom at times but, thanks to the Knowles’ support, has been able to reallocate most of that time to nursing school.

“I don’t have to worry about picking up a shift right after class,” Lopez said. “I am very grateful for them.”

During a meet and greet with the Knowles in the summer of 2025, Lopez shared with her scholarship funders how she aspires to go into geriatric nursing after graduating in spring 2026. She’s always been passionate about serving the elderly but realized it in earnest after helping care for her live-in grandmother while in high school. Lopez often translated for her Spanish-speaking grandmother during medical appointments.

The Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital in San Antonio is on Lopez’s radar as place she could live the Aggie Core Values as a geriatric nurse, honoring both her grandmother and the Knowles’ philanthropy.

Lopez will contemplate her post-graduation employment plans in more detail soon, but for now she uses her connection to the Knowles as a powerful motivation tool when experiencing the stress of student life.

“There are moments I am overwhelmed with exams and coursework,” Lopez said. “But you remember there are people there supporting you, and I don’t want to let them down.”

YOUR GIFT. YOUR WAY.

Gifts allow students, scholars, researchers and former students to make valuable contributions to the world’s body of knowledge. Your support allows dreams to become reality and transforms potential into action. Through your support, you can:

- **Create scholarships that attract the best and brightest students**
- **Fund translational research programs**
- **Increase access to health care for underserved adults and children**
- **Provide support for community outreach and educational programs**
- **Provide the finest facilities that encourage creativity and innovation**
- **Recruit and retain internationally recognized faculty by supporting their research and teaching**

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nursing.tamu.edu/give

LEADERSHIP



Leann Horsley
PhD, MBA, RN, CHSE, CNE
Dean



James Batchelder
EdD, MBA
Chief Administrative Officer



Lisa Haddad
PhD, MSHCA, RN
Executive Associate Dean and
Interim Associate Dean for
Graduate and Professional
Nursing Education



LeRoy A. Marklund
DNP, MPH, RN
Assistant Dean for
Undergraduate Nursing
Education - McAllen



Angela Mulcahy-Spence
PhD, RN, CMSRN, CHSE
Associate Dean for
Undergraduate Nursing
Education



Todd Stricherz, MS
Assistant Dean for
Student Affairs



Ramesh Vemulapalli
BVSc&AH, MVSc, PhD
Interim Associate Dean
for Research

LOCATIONS

- **Bryan-College Station**
- **Lufkin** (Advising and Recruitment)
- **McAllen**
- **Round Rock**



DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Second-Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Master of Science in Nursing-Nursing Education
- Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner
- Master of Science in Nursing-Forensic Nursing
- Doctor of Nursing Practice-Leadership
- Graduate Certificate in Forensic Health Care
- Post-Graduate Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner
- Post-Graduate Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

QUICK FACTS

2008

FOUNDED

800+

ENROLLMENT

350

ANNUAL
GRADUATES

400+

CLINICAL
PRACTICE SITES

52

FULL-TIME
FACULTY

36

PART-TIME
FACULTY

80

STAFF

7

AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF NURSING
FELLOWS

12

STUDENT
ORGANIZATIONS

ANNUAL SPONSORED
ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURES:

\$8.7M

ANNUAL PROJECT
AWARDS:

\$13.5M

CUMULATIVE PROJECT
AWARDS:

\$80.5M

99%

NCLEX FIRST-TIME PASS RATE

100%

NATIONAL NP EXAM PASS RATE

RESEARCH

Texas A&M Health Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing
(Texas A&M University System Board of Regents-
approved center)

Forensic nursing education and outreach for nurses and
other medical professionals, law enforcement, attorneys,
social workers and advocates.

Program of Excellence for Mothers, Children and Families
(College of Nursing-approved program)

Educational health promotion, preventative care
and community services to improve the health and
well-being of families and communities in rural and
underserved areas.

50+ active projects

Mobile care, rural health care access, sexual assault,
telehealth, technology, maternal and child health, cancer
prevention, opioid response and more.

BSN Honors Program

Undergraduate research projects with faculty guidance.

ACCREDITATION AND DISTINCTION

The baccalaureate degree program in
nursing, master's degree program in
nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice
program and post-graduate APRN
certificate program at the Texas A&M College
of Nursing are accredited by the **Commission
on Collegiate Nursing Education**
(<http://www.ccneaccreditation.org>).



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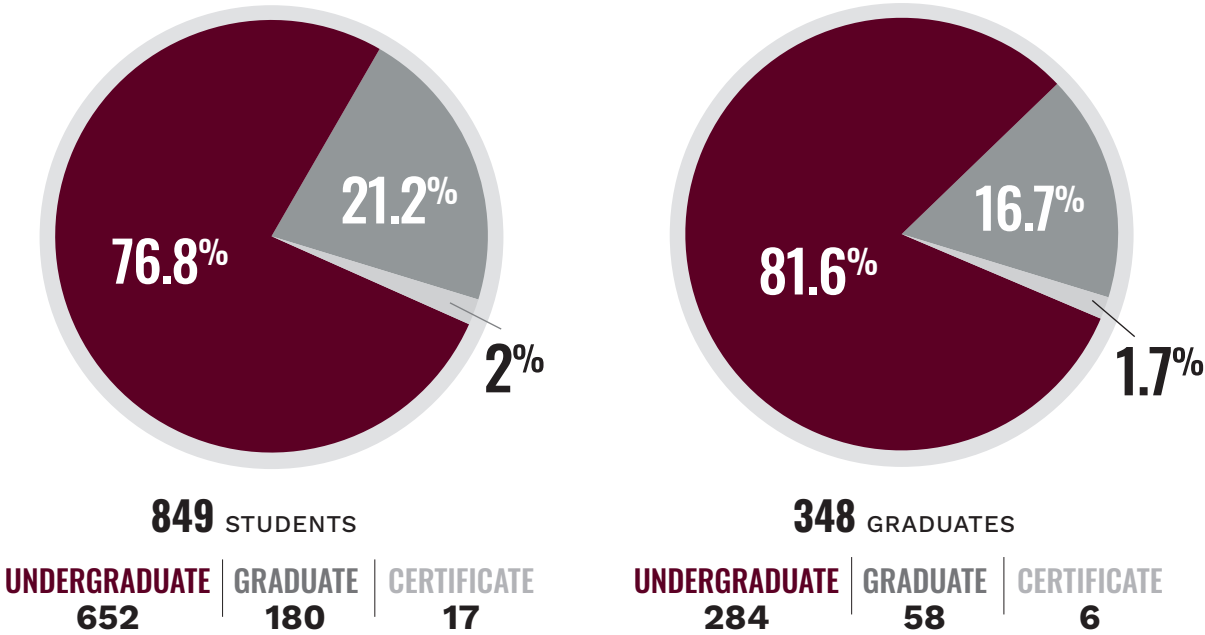
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program acknowledges the outstanding innovations,
commitment and sustainability of excellence these
organizations convey.



ABOUT **NURSING**

2024-2025 REPORT

STUDENTS



74 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS \$570,000 SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED

COMMUNITY

600 PATIENT VISITS	150 IMMUNIZATIONS ADMINISTERED	150 FAMILIES SERVED THROUGH NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP®
1,325 NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP® CLIENT VISITS	2,100 HIPPI HOME VISITS	276 GOLDEN CRESCENT-MOMS HOME VISITS
225,000 STUDENT CLINICAL HOURS COMPLETED	32,200 CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS	900 CONTINUING EDUCATION ATTENDEES

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

The College of Nursing’s 2024 Research Annual Report highlights scholarly activities.

\$8.7M	IN SPONSORED ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURES
\$13.5M	IN NEW FUNDING
59	SPONSORED PROJECTS
31	ARTICLES
49	PRESENTATIONS
15	POSTER PRESENTATIONS
8	BOOK AND CHAPTERS

 16
NURSING HONORS STUDENTS

READ THE REPORT



tx.ag/nursingresearch2024

AWARDS

Dr. James Batchelder, chief administrative officer, was selected chair elect of the AACN Business Officers of Nursing Schools (BONUS) Steering Committee.

Dr. Rosaleen Bloom, assistant professor, was named a Montague-CTE Scholar and accepted by the NIH Cancer Institute as an Early Investigator Advancement Program (EIAP) Associate.

Dr. Paul Thomas Clements, clinical professor, was selected a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Dr. Elizabeth Ellis, a nurse practitioner for the Texas A&M Health Mobile Clinic, was appointed to the National Association of Rural Health Clinics Research and Education Foundation Board and Texas Association of Rural Health Clinics Board of Directors.

Dr. Lisa Haddad, executive associate dean and interim associate dean for graduate and professional nursing education, was selected as a fellow of the Texas Academic Leadership Academy (TALA) and residency and academic program site reviewer for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Dr. Betsy Mauldin, clinical assistant professor, was appointed to the Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board’s Certified Medical-Surgical Registered Nurse (CMSRN) Continuing Competence Task Force.

Tara Maxa, lecturer, was honored by the Texas A&M Health Office of Interprofessional Practice, Education, & Research (IPER) with its 2024 Teaching Award for Interprofessional Excellence.

Dr. Stacey Mitchell, director of the Texas A&M Health Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing and clinical professor, accepted an invitation to become a member of the Forensic Nursing Consensus Body (CB) of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board (ASB) and was named an inaugural Texas A&M Health Institute for Healthcare Access faculty fellow.

Dr. Cassie Moffitt, clinical assistant professor, was chosen for a national-level role on the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists (ADCES) Technology Committee.

Dr. Maria Olenick, associate professor, was named a Texas A&M Research Leadership Fellow and granted tenure by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

Dr. Robin Page, associate professor, was elected chair of the Texas A&M Council of Principal Investigator and received the Southern Nursing Research Award for Research in Health Disparities.

Dr. Nicole Peters Kroll, clinical associate professor, received the Outstanding Faculty Practice award from the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) and was named a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Dr. Cherrie Pullium, visiting clinical assistant professor and former full-time faculty member, was honored with the Community Engagement Award by the Texas A&M Office of the President.

Allison Ross, lecturer, was named a Good Samaritan Foundation Nursing in Excellence Award.

Dr. Bethany Yearty, clinical assistant professor, was selected as a site visitor for the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA).

Dr. Kim Zemanek, associate program director of Tex-TRAC at the Texas A&M Health Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing, was named a Texas A&M Health Telehealth Institute fellow.

Nurse-Family Partnership® at Texas A&M was recognized with the President’s Meritorious Service Award, which is sponsored by the Texas A&M Office of the President and The Association of Former Students of Texas A&M.



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College of Nursing

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