



2018 NHC GNE Leadership Conference*

November 13-14, 2018 Boston, Massachusetts



What motivated you to become a gerontological nurse educator?

I was always around older adults when growing up. I started working in a nursing home at 16 and developed a love of the older adults. When working with them, I noted the difficulty some had and vowed to make a difference in the life of older adults. I decided I can make a larger impact by educating nurses in gerontology and hopefully to inspire some with my passion for older adults.

Favorite experience as a gerontological nurse expert educator?

My favorite experience is when a student who thinks they would not like to work with older adults find that they really enjoy that population and want to provide care to older adults.

Who is a key person who supported you in becoming a gerontological nurse educator?

My parents immersed myself and all my siblings with older adults throughout my childhood which established a respect for older adults.

Where would you like to see gerontological nursing education to be at in 5 years?

I would like to see all nursing programs have a focus on gerontology throughout the curriculum. I would like to see the health promotion and aspects of successful aging provided in addition to acute and chronic conditions

Key words of wisdom for those nurses interested in becoming a distinguished educator in gerontological nursing education?

Never let your passion for the older adult fade. The best motivator for an individual to pursue gerontology is a great role model for students to inspire to be that role model.



Nancy Edwards
PhD, MSN, ANP-BC
Purdue University

About Nancy

Dr. Edwards, an Associate Professor, is the Assistant Head of Graduate Programs and the Director of the Adult Gerontology Primary Care Practitioner Program in the Purdue School of Nursing. She has worked in gerontological nursing for over 40 years. She was instrumental in obtaining HRSA funding which was used to enhance geriatric education in Nursing, and also collaborated with a team of interprofessional healthcare providers in the Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy and Speech Language and Hearing Science to enhance the geriatric content they provide to their respective students. Dr. Edwards was one of the first to integrate gerontology into interprofessional education at Purdue University. She is also responsible for consistently obtaining traineeships for graduate students. Active in clinical practice at a Federally Qualified Health Center, she serves as a role model for the nurse practitioner students she precepts.

In addition, Dr. Edwards' research is focused on developing efficient and effective non-pharmacologic care protocols for older adults with neuroprogressive diseases. She implements interventions such as environmental enrichment utilizing animal-assisted therapy and chair-based exercise programs among frail persons with dementia in both community and institutional settings. She is developing care guidelines to differentiate the needs of caregivers and patients with various types of dementia. She has secured multiple program grants, including funding for the development and implementation of innovative interdisciplinary geriatric training curricula. Her clinical and research expertise is invaluable to the many nursing, pharmacy, and medical students she mentors.