



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

In order to bridge the generation gap of youth to older adults, I support integrating older adults as mentors and adult wellbeing in adolescent school curriculum. A question to be answered is; when do youth become disinterested in their elders and what can we do to promote mentoring of and between generations.

Favorite experience as a gerontological nurse expert educator?

Through a collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, I had the pleasure of disseminating my doctoral capstone project; Implementing a Fall Prevention Clinical Practice Guideline in an Ambulatory Spine Center, to community health centers throughout the commonwealth of Massachusetts. Through a consultant position secured through the Massachusetts Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund, each healthcare provider within the partnership was educated to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Stopping Elderly Accidents and Injury (STEADI) program which was the crux of my capstone. My participation as a content expert and educator was paying it forward in an effort to promote the safety and wellbeing of older adults at numbers that would surely snowball efforts exponentially.

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

There is no limit when your heart is in it! Thank you for all that you do to promote the health and wellbeing of older adults everywhere!

What motivated you to become a gerontological nurse educator?

Throughout my career as a nurse, from diploma to doctorate, I have centered my focus of interest on the older adult. I have a genuine interest and passion for older adults that began with sharing weekends a child with my grandparents.



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

I am an Adult Nurse Practitioner who had been mentored by the matriarch's of my family; Marion K. and Arthur L. Stillings and Katherine A., and John G., Garside. All four of my grandparents played an active role in my childhood and I was fortunate to spend quality time with each up until their passing.

Prior to practicing as a registered nurse and nurse practitioner, I had the pleasure of practicing as a nurse assistant in long term care settings, and simply fell in love with the care of older adults. My passion for understanding the history and experiences of my patients is genuine and these relationships are reciprocal, I am learning from them while caring for their healthcare needs, a privilege and true delight!

About Patricia

Patricia A. MacCulloch serves as a University of Massachusetts Lowell, Solomont School of Nursing Clinical Asst. Professor for the College of Health Sciences. In addition to teaching a variety of Advanced Practice Nursing graduate level courses, and under graduate geriatric health promotion course, MacCulloch is involved with coordinating practicum learning and internship opportunities for undergraduate gerontological nursing students throughout the greater Lowell area. Her current practice experience includes a robust Adult Nurse Practitioner practice at UMass Memorial Healthcare in Worcester MA, and Senior Healthcare Associates of Newton MA. Patricia is a consultant for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) as an older adult fall prevention content expert, collaborating with DPH through the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund program. Patricia is an active member of the Massachusetts DPH Fall Prevention Coalition, the Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners, the Eta Omega chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, and the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurse Association.