



2018 NHCNE Leadership Conference*

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Boston, Massachusetts

What motivated you to become a gerontological nurse educator?

I believe our aging population is at risk for being treated as a generic patient who is chronologically older. By teaching nurse practitioner students how to provide quality healthcare specific to older adults, I believe I am able to have a positive impact on an exponentially larger population in comparison with my ability in my previous practice setting.

Favorite experience as a gerontological nurse expert educator?

Seeing the adult gerontology nurse practitioner students' feeling of accomplishment when they see something in clinical practicum that they just learned and were confident in their competence.

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

Dr. Bobby Lowery and Dr. Wayne Wilson were the two key people who encouraged me to become a nurse educator.

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

I would like to see all nurses collaboratively practicing at the highest level of independence their training, comfort, and experience allows.

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

I recommend channeling their passion for quality gerontology care and embracing the initially uncomfortable opportunities that come their way. The uncomfortable opportunities lead to the expertise and characteristics of a distinguished educator in gerontological nursing education.



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About Candace

I am an adult gerontology primary care nurse practitioner who joined the graduate faculty of the Advanced Nursing Practice and Education department at ECU in 2012. I serve as adjunct faculty for ECU's Brody School of Medicine Family Medicine Geriatric Division and Vanderbilt University's School of Nursing. I have an active clinical practice in an academic interprofessional gerontology clinic in Greenville, NC. I earned my diploma in nursing in 1982 from Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, NC, my undergraduate degree in nursing from Gardner Webb University in 2002, master's degree in nursing with an adult gerontology concentration from the University of North Carolina Greensboro in 2005 and a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Vanderbilt University in 2011. In December 2018, I became the first graduate of ECU College of Nursing's DNP to PhD program. My dissertation research involved discovering family dementia caregivers' perceptions of the Virtual Dementia Tour, which provided insight into the value of dementia simulation in family dementia caregiving research.

For the past three years, I served as the project coordinator for ECU College of Nursing's Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program Grant. These projects included community provider education planning, coordination, and provision; interprofessional education activities for the Medical 3rd year clerkship, primary care nurse practitioner students, and physician assistant students, community clinical practicum dyads with nurse practitioner and physician assistant students, virtual clinic environment case design and oversight, and curriculum integration.