



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

I had the opportunity to become of colleague/peer of Dr. Beverly and become a faculty member overseeing nurse run clinics for the elderly in the housing complexes I had once been a student in. It is a pleasure and honor caring for the elderly and teaching today's student the needs our elderly have and the respect they deserve.

Today, I am responsible for the geriatric content in the Adult\Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program.

What motivated you to become a gerontological nurse educator?

I have always had a passion for the elderly, from family members, friends of family, and church family. While in undergraduate nursing school, I had the privilege of having Dr. Claudia Beverly as one of my first nursing instructors. We had a strong geriatric curriculum infused in our program and many of our clinicals were done at Government Subsidized Housing complexes for the elderly.

This afforded us the opportunity to interact with the elderly and identify many needs they had as well as resources to meet their needs.

When returning to pursue my Master's, I knew I wanted to grow clinically and become prepared to teach one day. I completed the clinical track and education track for these goals. After continuing to practice as a registered nurse practitioner, the timing was right for me to transition to a faculty role.



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About Janet

Janet Rooker is a Clinical Associate Professor in the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Nursing. She teaches in the Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program. She has over 25 years of experience as a master's prepared nurse practitioner working in both academic health science centers and the private sector caring for patients with neurological disorders and focusing on care of our aging adults.

Mrs. Rooker has 15 years of experience teaching undergraduate and graduate nursing with expertise in neurology and gerontology. She has served as the Clinical Coordinator for Nurse-Run Clinics in Community-Dwelling Older Adult Housing Complexes. She was responsible for bringing interprofessional teams to work beside nursing students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels to provide care to the elderly. As a faculty member, she is responsible for coordinating practicum experiences and clinical placement for nurse practitioner students in all specialties. She travels the state conducting site visits and coordinating preceptors.