FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Morella Herington has been Faculty with the College of Nursing at CTU since 2017. She has served in the medical field for close to 30 years as a paramedic, a nurse, and in various leadership positions in critical care including VP of inpatient services. Dr. Herington loves that in nursing every day is different. “Every day I impact the lives of another in a positive way. There is no other role in any profession that can compare with nursing in my opinion.” She still practices but has spent the last ten years in academia. She also serves on the board of directors at a local hospital in her area.

“I am truly passionate about the student focus of CTU, and ensuring students are engaged in their learning.” Dr. Herington teaches NRSG314- Safety and Quality Improvement in Nursing. She is excited about how the course objectives align as a huge driving force to everything that nurses do. In her course, she engages in dialogue surrounding organizational culture of safety and loves when students realize the power they have in patient outcomes, patient safety, and positive change. Dr. Herington described a recent learning experience, “I was able to bring in a current event that… occurred…in East TN in which a medication error resulted in a patient death. We used this situation and the Swiss cheese theory in our chat about the RCA…to step back and look at processes…It was very exciting to see how thoughts, and attitudes changed when we looked at things with a different lens.” Throughout NRSG314 students discuss how nurses influence quality and safety initiatives and the impact of measurement systems and organizational goals in regards to core measures, HCAHPS scores, and patient satisfaction surveys. The course offers Real Life Application of AACN BSN Essential VII: Clinical Prevention and Population Health - Health promotion and disease prevention at the individual and population level are necessary to improve population health and are important.
CTU College of Nursing Developing Honor Society

Established in 1922 by six nurses at the Indiana University Training School for Nurses, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing is known as Sigma today. The founders chose the name from the Greek words storgé, tharsos, and timé, meaning love, courage, and honor. Since that time 530 chapters at more than 700 institutions of higher education in 29 countries have been chartered. Sigma recognizes the value of scholarship and excellence in nursing practice. In 1936, Sigma became the first US organization to fund nursing research. Today, Sigma supports these values through its numerous professional development products and services with a focus on education, leadership, career development, evidence-based nursing, research, and scholarship.

CTU’s College of Nursing’s pursuit of an application to become a Sigma chapter is in answer to the call from nursing students who wanted to have more of a connection to the College of Nursing. Those seeking to become a chapter are known as a Developing Honor Society while demonstrating the ability to maintain a sustaining membership and meeting other criteria set forth by Sigma. When the Developing Honor Society is invited to become a Sigma chapter the Greek letters for that chapter will be given to the new chapter. For more information please feel free to reach Dr. Laurie Starks at LStark@coloradotech.edu.

CTU student Amy Dennis has devoted her life to helping and serving others since she was a teenager. Out of high school, Amy joined the Air Force and served as a medic for eight years. After her service, Amy attended Penn State University and received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, which prepares students for a job as a Registered Nurse (RN).

Amy moved on and attained her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) at Colorado Technical University—a program that requires dedication and has the potential to affect a student’s nursing success in the form of new opportunities. Amy chose CTU to pursue her graduate degree because of the ease and quality of the program. “What CTU offers—convenience and flexibility—fit my busy schedule, and the MSN is a really good program.”

While working to fulfill her educational goals, Amy committed to continuing her service to her community. She is the 2019 Relay For Life Chairperson for the Fayette County Career & Technical Institute LPN Program, and also worked as a volunteer for the 2018 Toys for Tots Program. In addition, Amy worked for two years as a clinical instructor in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, teaching nursing students the skills required to properly care for patients. At the Fayette County Career & Technical Institute, she ran simulation labs for nursing students to practice their skills for real-life situations, such as using mannequins to practice IV insertion or creating scenarios for students to identify “what’s wrong with this picture.”

Today, Amy is completing CTU’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, the terminal degree for nursing, and has a projected graduation date of June 2020. Inspired by her CTU professors, Amy’s ultimate goal is to work as an educator in a university BSN program herself. “I had a great experience in my master’s program at CTU, and the experiences offered through their DNP program allow me to build on that.”

Amy credits her professors as being a key part of her positive CTU experience. “The professors are awesome! Whenever I needed help, they were always available right away.” She also attributes the CTU Doctoral Symposium as another influential component. “The Symposium in Denver was an excellent experience for meeting people!” says Amy. The Symposium, held quarterly in Denver, Colorado, gives students the opportunity to meet with faculty and peers, take part in workshops, and engage in discussions with those in the field.

Although Amy once enjoyed the excitement, chaos, and variety offered as an emergency nurse, she has found that her passion is within the classroom. "There's nothing more fulfilling than seeing the look on a student’s face when they understand and ask questions.” As part of the LPN Faculty at the Fayette County Career & Technical Institute, Amy continues to develop the skills she needs to teach while being a lecturer for nursing students. She believes her experiences, both inside and outside the classroom, will fit within the changing nursing field by providing her students with a solid, educational foundation. For more information about Colorado Technical University’s DNP or other online doctoral degree programs, contact a CTU admissions advisor for more information.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT FROM DEAN OF NURSING

The College of Nursing’s mission is through innovative curriculum and student-centered teaching to support and inspire students to become competent, caring, and accountable professionals who serve a diverse client population. As the University Dean for College of Nursing, I am proud to be a part of CTU’s nursing community of learners, graduates, faculty, and administration who work to positively impact, influence and bring change to the world around us. It is my pleasure to welcome and introduce you to the College of Nursing Quarterly Newsletter.