

GRADUATE PROFILES

Mario Rodriguez, B.S. with a major in Nursing graduate, Monmouth Campus

By Christi Richardson-Zboralski

The Oregon fires had already begun on the night that Mario Rodriguez, B.S. with a major in Nursing graduate, Monmouth Campus, had decided to move up north. He transferred to the Monmouth campus to be closer to his young son. Smoke covered the town of Salem as Rodriguez ventured into his new home.

Jobless due to working in the landscaping field and because of the fires, he moved into his dad's garage. He said, "I finally got a job as a sales associate at the mall, however, not long after losing the landscaping job, the store I was employed by shutdown for two weeks due to another associate contracting COVID."



Mario Rodriguez, B.S.

After the two-week hiatus, Rodriguez went back to the sales associate job, but soon contracted COVID causing him to isolate. "It was December and there I was, going through quarantine during Christmas and still behind on bills."

After all of this it didn't seem like Rodriguez would be able to move out on his own, but after recovering from COVID, he said, "I found Easterseals which helped me find my own place. Currently, as I type this, I'm in my own apartment as my son sleeps soundly next to me."

(Originally featured on the SoN Facebook and Instagram pages in June).

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Congratulations to **Dr. Gail Armstrong** for being among the 225 distinguished nurse leaders selected to join the 2021 class of fellows announced by the American Academy of Nursing.
- **Dr. Karen Reifenstein** was selected for the inaugural cohort of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Diversity Leadership Institute. She completed the program in June.
- Congratulations to **Lisa Osborne-Smith** for being included in the AANA 2021 Class of Fellows. The Fellows of the AANA (FAANA) designation distinguishes certified registered nurse anesthetists as being the premier anesthesia provider with a high level of skills, training, experience, achievement, and professional standards.
- **Patti Hanson, M.S.N., C.N.M., FACNM** and **Elise Erickson, Ph.D., C.N.M.**, have been named fellows of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM).
- The Nurse of the Year award goes to current Doctor of Nursing student **Shelby Lee Freed** in the Advanced Practice category.
- **Karen Alles, M.N., R.N., C.P.N.**, clinical instructor with the Portland UG program, recently received the 2021 CPN Certification Advocate Award from the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB).
- The Black Student Nurses Group Umoja (means unity in Swahili) and the LatinX Nursing Student Alliance (LANSA) were created last year. Contact Trina Ramirez at ramireztr@ohsu.edu for more information about these new groups.

SCHOOL OF NURSING CONNECTIONS

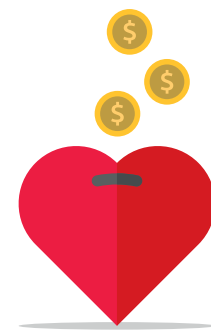
GIVE DAY 2021

OHSU School of Nursing earns 2021 National League for Nursing Centers of Excellence™ distinction

Twenty-three nursing programs from across the country and across the academic spectrum of higher education in nursing and leading teaching hospitals and clinical sites have been named 2021 National League for Nursing Centers of Excellence™. OHSU earned its distinction in the category *Enhance student learning and professional development*.

The process for applying started in 2019 and was borne out of Strategic Initiatives on Educational Standards led by Ann Nielsen and Paula Gubrud-Howe. They led a series of sessions during 2019- 2020 faculty forums to identify exemplars. After exploring options for best practices the group was enthusiastic about pursuing this designation with the overall goal of raising the level of excellent educational performance at OHSU.

Dean Bakewell-Sachs said, "This was a faculty led decision and application process, based upon many years of focus and expertise on student learning and development. The application was a major undertaking in and of itself, which Joanne Noone and a team led, and what is in the application represents broad and deep work across the entire school – programs and campuses – and why we earned this Center of Excellence distinction."



Alumni, faculty, staff and friends rally in support of the school

Thank you to the 27 OHSU School of Nursing alumni, faculty, staff and friends who combined to provide over \$4,400 in support of student scholarships and general purposes during OHSU's first Give Day on May 18. Final OHSU Give Day totals exceeded every goal set for the day, resulting in over \$700,000 in support of OHSU's mission areas from over 700 donors. Thank you to all our donors, whose support for students and programs allows the School of Nursing to extend its long tradition of peer-recognized excellence in clinical nursing education and nurse-scientist research programs. Matching funds are still available for student scholarship and support funds. Find out more at ohsufoundation.org/education/.

WEBINARS



OHSU Nursing@Noon webinar series

Join leaders of the OHSU School of Nursing at noon on the second Monday of each month for brief, informational updates on key issues for the School and our community. All sessions are offered at no charge. Webinars are scheduled monthly through April.

For more information on these presentations and the remainder of the 2021-22 series, visit ohsufoundation.org/alumni/school-of-nursing/ohsu-nursing-noon/

UPCOMING WEBINARS

State of the School Address

October The 2021-22 OHSU Nursing@Noon webinar series launches with Dean Susan Bakewell-Sachs' annual and much-anticipated State of the School address.

18 Please register on the website link: www.ohsu.edu/school-of-nursing/ohsu-nursing-noon

Creating the 21st Century Nursing Workforce Needed by Society: Building on Our Strengths to Address Post Pandemic Health Needs

November Leading health care economist and nurse Dr. Peter Buerhaus is well known for his studies on the nursing and physician workforces in the United States. Dr. Buerhaus stands squarely in the foreground of thinking about the role of nurses in post-pandemic health care.



OHSU NURSING@NOON 2020-21 SERIES BY THE NUMBERS



>1,200

Number of people who registered for webinars



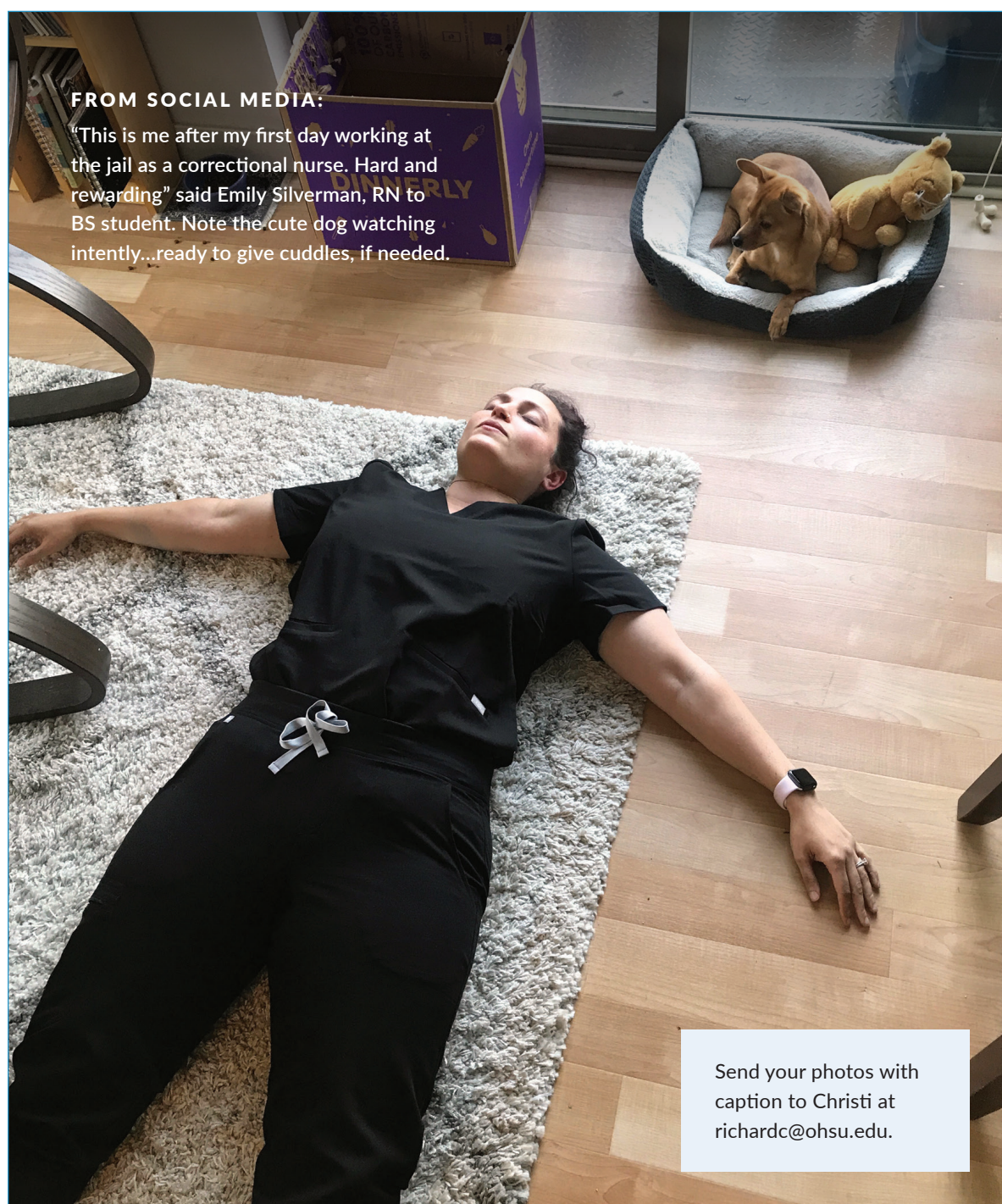
16

Number of series presenters



6

Countries outside the U.S. from which participants connected



Send your photos with caption to Christi at richardc@ohsu.edu.

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Editors: Christi Richardson-Zboralski and Mark Kemball

Designer: Charlotte Woodward

Photography: SoN community and OHSU Photography

OHSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. 8/21 (130)

Connections

A PUBLICATION FROM THE OHSU SCHOOL OF NURSING

SUMMER 2021



Students staffed COVID Vaccine Resource Tables for a Population Health class in the Rockwood Neighborhood.

Greetings SoN community,

By Susan Bakewell-Sachs, dean and vice president of nursing affairs



I hope you are doing well, taking care of yourself, and had some opportunity for rest and relaxation over the summer. Since our last newsletter, we initiated piloting of approved in-person learning activities with students in the spring term, to help inform our fall-term planning for more in-person classes. In June, we graduated nearly 500 baccalaureate and higher-degree prepared students. We have remained focused on the health, well-being, and safety of our members and cognizant of the vital importance of our work to ensure the nursing workforce required to meet societal health needs.

Updates in this newsletter show our continuing focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion and our commitment to the entire state of Oregon. I am also very proud to let you know that the OHSU School of Nursing is a newly designated National League for Nursing Center of Excellence in Nursing Education.



HEALTH INEQUALITIES



Program expands access to primary care in rural Oregon

By Lee Lewis Husk
It's a vexing, decades-old problem: how to get well-educated primary care practitioners into rural and frontier areas and underserved urban neighborhoods where the need is great and inequities, lack of access and barriers, are commonplace.

A relatively new program at the School of Nursing is taking aim at the problem. One of the goals of the Regional Expansion of Nurse Practitioner Education and Workforce (RENEW) in Oregon is to recruit nurses from areas of need and educate them as family nurse practitioners and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners with a DNP degree.

The nursing school's regional campus system provides an ideal model for doing so. Now two years into a four-year, \$2.8 million grant funded by the U.S. Health Services & Resources Administration, the school has FNP and PMHNP students at its Portland campus and students in rural areas near the La Grande, Klamath Falls and Ashland campuses.

“Students can choose the regional campus closest to them for hands-on learning,” said Cindy Perry, Ph.D., F.N.P. and project director for the RENEW grant. She explained that the three-year DNP program is a hybrid experience where students get clinical experience with local preceptors, do online coursework, participate in simulation and assessment labs and make one to two trips per term to the Portland campus. Students can also choose to receive their instruction for either degree in person on the Portland campus.

The mental health piece has become increasingly important to address, given the high rates of suicide and depression during the pandemic and the scarcity of practitioners outside of Portland to help people with mental health issues overall.

“It is clear that providing rural mental health care depends on growing local providers,” said Margaret Scharf, D.N.P., PMHNP/CNS-BC., who directs the PMHNP program. She adds that RENEW also funds students working with urban underserved populations.

Nancy Ferrer, B.S.N., who has completed her first year didn’t want to move to Portland (for graduate education). She said, “I love the flexibility of staying in Klamath Falls where I got my undergraduate degree.”

The 23-year-old grew up in Coquille on the Oregon coast. Her parents immigrated from Mexico before her birth, making Spanish her first language. She often accompanied Hispanic family members to clinic appointments because the area “had a huge need for medical professionals who were bilingual,” she said. “Growing up in Coquille, I’ve come to know about social determinants of health and health care barriers in rural areas. I’ve learned that people are less likely to stick with a medical regimen if they don’t understand why they’re taking meds.”

Jackie Webb, D.N.P., F.N.P. and director of the FNP program, says OHSU doctorate-prepared FNP’s have the clinical skills to assess and create social policies to work with communities to decrease health inequities. “We’re committed to teaching students to understand that every community has its own cultural beliefs and practices, and that we have to respect and learn from them,” she said.

Ferrer was inspired to pursue an advanced degree but worried about the expense until she heard about financial aid through RENEW, which pays tuition and fees, as well as living expenses for students who need them.

Each year, RENEW Oregon awards \$350,000 in scholarships. The program currently has 11 FNP students with another nine entering in the fall; the PMHNP program has six students now and four more joining in the fall.

Besides admitting students from rural and urban underserved communities, another major thrust of RENEW Oregon is to build strong partnerships with clinical preceptors in 10 frontier and rural Oregon counties. In urban underserved neighborhoods and populations, the program partners with Multnomah County Health Department.

Unlike some schools of nursing that admit large numbers of students who must find their own clinical preceptors, OHSU’s faculty locates clinical preceptors who are matched with students and who receive training, mentorship and evaluation to keep them engaged in the teaching process.

“We’re working to meet the needs of students through rigorous, hands-on sessions and small class size,” project director Perry said, adding that the goal is to develop a model that is sustainable over time using an approach that will rigorously meet the needs of a community, its clinical sites and students.



FNP students gain in-depth knowledge and clinical experiences in areas such as: advance health and physical assessment, advanced pharmacology and pathophysiology, health promotion, acute and chronic illness management, role development as a primary care, clinician, and reproductive and prenatal care. Photo taken pre-pandemic.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION



Ruby Heister, HealthE Steps program graduate, practices on a manikin during a simulation learning event.

Taking HealthE STEPS toward diversity, equity and inclusion

By Cathy Carroll
During the last year, continuing work toward improving diversity, equity and inclusion has been making strides in a range of ways at the School of Nursing.

“The death of Mr. George Floyd and the resultant unrest suddenly put a bright spotlight back on diversity equity and inclusion issues, more than ever,” said Karen Reifenstein, Ph.D., R.N., Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Diversity. “This has resulted in a renewed effort and focus on anti-racism work and how we can continue to strengthen the culture within the school, as it relates to diversity, equity and inclusion.”

“An important milestone in the last year was the creation of safe spaces for students,” said Reifenstein, who worked with the Center for Diversity and Inclusion to launch two interest groups for underrepresented students. Nine Black student nurses named the first group of its kind at the school, calling it Umoja, which means unity in Swahili. A Latinx student nurses group attracted 15 students and will be revealing its formal name soon.

“We anticipate more student groups in the future,” said Reifenstein. A series of webinars devoted to conversations about anti-racism in nursing education and the nursing profession drew robust interest from faculty and students, strengthening the culture of the School of Nursing community, and they will resume in the fall.

In a quest to improve health equity, the HealthE STEPS program has made progress. HealthE STEPS — Advancing Health Equity through Student Empowerment & Professional Success — has focused on enrolling, retaining, empowering and graduating nursing students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Underrepresented ethnic and racial minority populations, particularly Hispanics and Native Americans, work to improve health equity within their communities through professional nursing practice.

HealthE STEPS focuses on enrolling, retaining, empowering and graduating nursing students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

In the last four years, the grant-funded program has awarded \$807,949 in scholarships and stipends to 99 undergraduate students and 14 graduate students, according to Joanne Noone, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.E., ANEF, F.A.A.N., who recently retired as OHSU Campus Associate Dean – Ashland. Among the undergraduates, 95 percent were underrepresented minorities and 82 percent were first in their families to go to college. All of them completed the program and 96 percent graduated on time. All of the graduate students identified as belonging to underrepresented minorities and 79 percent were first in their families to go to college. All the graduate students completed the program and 93 percent graduated on time.

HealthE STEPS played a major role in the life path of Ireli Hernandez, who graduated in 2020. Born in Mexico, she was raised in Medford, Ore. and became a mother at age 15. Through her own determination, the support of her family and HealthE STEPS, in 2017 she enrolled at OHSU, Ashland campus and earned a B.S. in Nursing. She went on to enroll in the DNP program at OHSU in Portland, moving there with her 11-year-old son. She completed her doctorate in 2020 and became a certified nurse midwife at La Clinica’s Women’s Health Center in Medford.

Beckie Juarez, Diversity Coordinator and Diana Siltanen R.N., B.S.N., Clinical Instructor, both at the La Grande campus, were excited to share the story of Elysa Nason, who graduated in June along with her daughter, Katelyn. Katelyn enrolled in an accelerated high school program so that she could graduate alongside her mother.

The School of Nursing is also prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusion through faculty governance. One goal was for the Diversity Advisory Group to be formalized and made a standing committee. That happened in the spring, which allows it to be a part of the process of collaborative partnerships and advisory consultation as it supports the School of Nursing Community across campuses and programs. “This year, membership has increased to about 30 faculty, staff and some external members, representing all programs and campuses,” Reifenstein said.

As part of a Diversity Advisory Group effort to communicate and highlight those who are doing significant work around diversity, equity and inclusion at OHSU, Reifenstein created the “Inspired By a Leader” series of video photo loops playing throughout OHSU. The inaugural loop featured OHSU School of Dentistry’s Rosemarie Hemmings, Ph.D., LCSW, an assistant professor in community dentistry and director of social work. Dr. Hemmings is creating and teaching an innovative inter-professional curriculum related to social determinants of health. As a social worker for three decades, she has seen the psychological impact of socioeconomic status on those who get their oral health needs met. Leaders will be highlighted throughout the upcoming year and The School will continue to make diversity, equity and inclusion a priority.

COMMENCEMENT 2021

Graduation awards

This year graduation was held in virtual settings across Oregon from the comfort of our own homes to celebrate the Class of 2021.

Statewide student awards

The Henrietta Doltz Puhaty Award
Undergraduate recipient:
Zabeh Rasa, Portland
Graduate recipient:
Kiki Fornero, Ph.D.

The Carol A. Lindeman Award
Undergraduate recipient:
Jorgi Heikkila, La Grande and
Andrew Simmons, Ashland
Graduate recipient:
Lynaudry Vickers, D.N.P., PMHNP

The Community Service Award
Undergraduate recipient:
Colin Albi, Ashland
Graduate recipient:
Emma Reim, D.N.P., F.N.P.

The Jean E. Boyle Memorial award
Undergraduate recipient:
Abigail Shaw, Klamath Falls
Graduate recipient:
Chloe Han, D.N.P., P.N.P.

The Rural and Frontier Nursing Award
Undergraduate recipient:
Erica Fritts, La Grande
Graduate recipient:
Anna Brammer, D.N.P., F.N.P. La Grande

The Transcultural Nursing Award
Undergraduate recipients:
Marnasha Fowlkes, Monmouth
Graduate recipient:
Lorenzo Ortega, D.N.P., F.N.P.

Faculty awards

Diversity and Inclusion award
Joanne Noone, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.E., ANEF, F.A.A.N.

Excellence in Teaching Award
Undergraduate recipient: Tyler Chipman
Graduate recipient: Teri Copley

Campus awards

Registered Nurse to Bachelor’s of Science degree
The Golden Lamp Award:
Taryn Ackelson
The Elnora Thompson Leadership Award:
Zlata Danielevskaya
The Dorothy L. Johnson Award:
Casey Berger

Portland
The Golden Lamp Award: Leigh Richards
The Elnora Thompson Leadership Award:
Marla Batista
The Dorothy L. Johnson Award:
Megen Brahmstadt and Samantha Baldwin

Monmouth
The Golden Lamp Award:
Marnasha Fowlkes-Cetz
The Elnora Thompson Leadership Award:
Courtney Roth
Monmouth Student Vision Award:
Jessica Chittim
Monmouth Scholarly Achievement Award:
Susan Parker
Sigma Theta Tau Outstanding Undergraduate Student: Justin Davis

Ashland
The Golden Lamp Award:
Cheng Hee Kang
Gloria Krueger Award:
Katherine Petrick
The Elnora Thompson Leadership Award:
Alyssa Gormley

Klamath Falls
The Golden Lamp Award:
Chelsea Entrambasaguas
The Elnora Thompson Leadership Award:
Megan Ross

La Grande
The Golden Lamp Award: Mary Bower
The Elnora Thompson Leadership Award:
Cole Johnson



Making the best of a difficult situation

Students and faculty sent in photos of what safe and healthy summer activities they were able to enjoy. Our social media channels help provide a view into the lives of our faculty, students, staff and alumni.



A small, fully vaccinated group gathered briefly to celebrate a friend’s graduation.