

To: Radford University College of Nursing Faculty and Staff  
From: Dr. Wendy Downey, Interim Dean  
Date: March 22, 2024  
Subject: Dean's Annual Report

It has been a privilege and honor to serve as the Interim Dean of





were involved in the process to ensure that the design matched the needs of the faculty. Once a contract was signed between the university and RHEC, construction work went quickly, and I was able to work with RUC leadership and Facilities to begin the move in December 2023. The faculty worked extremely hard over the winter break and throughout the process in packing, moving, and unpacking offices, supplies, and minor equipment.

As a result, we transformed the Roanoke-based nursing programs by moving the upper-division nursing classes and the Roanoke faculty to the Roanoke Higher Education Center. Students began classes in Spring 2024 in four dedicated classrooms specifically designed for active teaching and learning in nursing and large enough to seat up to 86 students. The two skills





according to Virginia Board of Nursing guidelines for practicum experiences so that our nursing ROTC students can receive course credit towards NURS 454 for their Army summer immersion program. We also discussed the number of available seats in our prelicensure programs in both Radford and Roanoke, and they have prioritized Radford University as transfer institution when students are placed on wait lists at other institutions.

#### Nursing Student Fees

Another significant development to benefit our students that I have been working on for more than a year is the creation of nursing student fees. Beginning in Fall 2024, students will be able to use financial aid to cover the out-of-pocket expenses related to being a student in our nursing programs. Such costs will cover clinical clearance requirements, Project Concert, and other program-specific technology requirements.

#### Transfer Students from Virginia Tech

Over the past year, I have continued discussions with Virginia Tech's Human Nutrition Foods & Exercise (HNFE) department chair, Renee Eaton, to explore ways to include our first semester of prelicensure BSN courses as electives for their students interested in transferring to Radford for nursing. Recently we met with Dr. Nicole Hendrix to assist us in discussions on transfer pathways with the Registrar and Provost offices of both institutions.

### VII. Curriculum Revisions

The undergraduate and graduate curriculum committees made significant revisions to their programs over the past year to improve efficiencies for students and faculty, which were supported by leadership.

#### Undergraduate Curriculum Development

In February 2024, the undergraduate curriculum committee brought a motion before the faculty to eliminate the Accelerated BSN track (ABSN). The faculty passed this motion, which will result in the college having one prelicensure BSN curriculum. Since the last admitted cohort to the





Seven T&R faculty positions remain unfilled as of March 2024, and we recently received one resignation, creating another vacancy in prelicensure nursing beginning

In addition to managing this fiscal year's budget, I have submitted proposals for the 24-25 AY budget which include major changes to the college's overall budget process. It was important in the budget development process to create funds that each new department would operate across locations. Thus, Brandon Cohen, Connie Phillips, and I were able to reimagine how the college budget would be implemented through creation of a new FOAP and modifiers. Each department budget was submitted with the SCHEV proposals for the creation of the new departments. The proposal is for the College of Nursing to have six distinct org codes: Dean's budget (11505), Jo Ann Bingham Clinical Simulation Center (11506), Revenue account for the Simulation Center (11591), Prelicensure Nursing (new), Nursing Leadership (new), and Advanced Practice Nursing (new).

Academic and managerial duties:

- Chaired the college's faculty organization meetings
- Presided over and set the agenda for the weekly Executive Committee meetings
- Presided over and set the agenda for the college Leadership Council meetings
- Supervised and mentored the college leadership team and oriented new college leadership members (Taryn Tretick, Dee Pennington, and Meagan Arthur)
- Met individually in 1:1 meetings with the associate dean, NURSE program Director, CSC Director, and academic unit heads weekly and as needed
- Supervised the college's administrative assistants

XI. Dean's Scholarship, Service, and Leadership Growth

Teaching

Committee member for one DNP Final Project (Hill – defense in July 2023)

Scholarship

Two publications in 2023:

Downey, W. R. (2023). In Craven, H. & Woodall, W. (Ed.), Core Curriculum for Medical-Surgical Nursing (6th Ed.), Chapter 4 The Gastrointestinal System. Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses.

Callahan, C., Cole, C., & Downey, W. (2023). Hepatitis C updates and beyond. , (10), 2-6.

Service

1.

9. Roanoke Campus Program Planning - Project Steering Committee
10. Governor's School for Health & Medical, planning

1. Highlander Days
2. Quest
3. Prospective student tours for Nursing
4. Faculty Fall Convocation
5. Homecoming
6. Women of Radford luncheon
7. Day of Gratitude
8. Volunteer Summit
9. Radford University Distinction Forum
10. Enrollment Management Open Forums
11. SACSCOC reaccreditation visit
12. Meeting with US Army General for Nursing and Military Science / ROTC
13. Partners in Excellence luncheon
14. Together Campaign Steering Committee Meeting & Reception
15. Board of Visitors meetings
16. Board of Visitors Networking Reception at Blue Ridge Beverage
17. RUC Counselors Highlander Education Appreciation Evening
18. Cheese the Day at RUC
19. Ice Cream Social in Nursing LLC
20. Campus Holiday Celebration
21. School of Nursing Pinning ceremonies
22. Graduate Hooding and Commencement ceremonies
23. Open House events
24. Multiple searches for Provost's leadership team

1. Panel Moderator, Blue Ridge Partnership

