SPECIAL EDITION
COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES
NEWSLETTER

FUTURE OF NURSING
IN SOUTH TEXAS

OCTOBER 19, 2023
Hosted by the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi College of Nursing and Health Sciences in partnership with CHRISTUS Health on Thursday, October 19, 2023, the Future of Nursing in South Texas summit brought together over one hundred area leaders, decision makers, and practitioners to discuss the most pressing issues in nursing today: education, workforce, and advocacy. Three moderators led eleven panelists in thought provoking discussions and engaged the enthusiastic audience during the question-and-answer period. The day concluded with an inspiring keynote address that included five action items specifically focused on advancing nursing in South Texas.
Moderated by Dr. Christina Murphey, PhD, RN, College of Nursing and Health Sciences Associate Dean for Nursing, the Education Panel addressed the opportunities and challenges encountered in educating the next generation of practicing nurses.

The day began with panelists representing higher education and clinical practice engaging in a discussion on the current and future state of nursing education. The discussion focused on challenges and successes encountered when recruiting, retaining, and graduating nursing students and how educators can work with healthcare institutions to increase access to clinical education sites. The conversation continued to include innovative strategies to expand clinical opportunities, design curriculum, and incorporate artificial intelligence play into nursing education.

Eric Heckerson, EdD, RN
System Director of Nursing Education, Practice, and Standards
CHRISTUS Health

Stacey De Hoyos, MBA, BSN, RN-BC, CNOR
Assistant CNO Doctors Regional Hospital
Corpus Christi Medical Center

Linda Earwood, DNP, RN, CHSE, CNE
Nursing Program Director
Del Mar College

Cynthia Dixon Massey, MBA, MPA, MSSW
Program Director Academic and Health Affairs
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Moderated by Dr. Renae Schumann, PhD, RN, CNE, College of Nursing and Health Sciences Endowed Professor of Nursing, the Workforce Panel addressed the workforce needs specific to our region and best practices related to hiring and retention.

The second panel of the day included representatives from higher education, clinical practice, and the Texas Center for Health Statistics. Each with a unique viewpoint, they discussed the impact of the nursing shortage, generational differences in the workforce, and the changing role of nurses. They furthered the discussion to include how educators and employers can collaborate to assure that new nursing graduates are "day one ready" to provide the highest quality of care, and how organizations can support practice readiness for novice nurses.

Jeannie Berry, MHA, RN, CEN
CNO CHRISTUS
Spohn Shoreline
CHRISTUS Health

Jason Sewell, MSN, RN
Assistant CNO Bay Area Hospital
Corpus Christi Medical Center

Kayla Davis, MS
Research Specialist V
Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies
Center for Health Statistics
Texas Department of State Health Services
Moderated by Dr. Scott Lillibridge MD, Texas A&M Health Science Center AVP Global Health, the Advocacy Panel included thought leaders and decision makers that provided broad-based insight and recommendations for the Future of Nursing in South Texas.

Summarizing the topics of the day and looking forward, the Advocacy Panel engaged in a robust discussion focused on strategies, partnerships, and action steps necessary to promote advances in healthcare in South Texas.

Craig Desmond, MS
President Spohn Health System
CHRISTUS Health

Karl Serrao, MD
CMO Driscoll Health Plan
Driscoll Children’s Hospital

Jennifer Knoulton, BSN, RN
VP of Regional Operations
Methodist Healthcare Ministries

Joyce Batcheller, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAONL, FAAN
President
Texas Nurses Association
Highlighting the importance of healthcare and community partnerships, TAMU-CC President Dr. Kelly Miller joined CONHS Dean Dr. Hassan Aziz in welcoming guests to the university and introduced the keynote speaker Jennifer Eisenbarth, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, ACM-RN. CHRISTUS Health Vice President, Chief Nursing Practice Officer, Dr. Jennifer Eisenbarth highlighted five opportunities to advance nursing including addressing the growing demand for nursing services, embracing technological innovations, advancing evidence-based practice, strengthening health equity and social justice, and nurturing transformational nursing leadership.
THANK YOU

Thank you for participating in the TAMU-CC CONHS and CHRISTUS Health Future of Nursing in South Texas summit. It is our hope that this event inspired you to strengthen partnerships, strive for innovation, and most importantly, continue an open dialogue that will ultimately advance healthcare and health outcomes for our community. Working together, we can accomplish great things!

Thank you to Del Mar College’s Chairperson of the Department of Nurse Education Dr. Jennifer McWha for introducing each panel and helping to ensure that we remained on schedule.

Enriching lives, advancing healthcare, one ISLANDER at a time.
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