



Community Engagement Report

FY 2021-2022

A Message from the Dean



Florida Atlantic University's Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing is comprised of dedicated professionals and students who instill caring into every aspect of their work. Across our campuses, the College is committed to serving our local community through a wide range of channels. Through public clinics and programs that meet societal needs, as well as numerous outreach events and activities, the College plays a vital role in the health of our community.

Our students and faculty strive to make a powerful and lasting impact where we live and work. After graduation, 85 percent of FAU's College of Nursing alumni remain in Florida, and 66 percent of Nursing alumni remain in South Florida and directly go to work caring for our local communities. The majority of the ground-breaking research conducted by College of Nursing faculty involves local research participants throughout the southeast region in the areas of COVID-19, big data, digital health divide, senior isolation, healthy aging, Alzheimer's disease and dementia, harmful blue/green algal blooms, human-animal interaction with veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and more.

The College's Advisory Board and its donors also play an important part in strengthening local relationships, as well as engaging in critical fundraising and educational efforts. We are extremely grateful to those who partner with us through philanthropy, volunteerism or other collaborative efforts in order to provide the absolute best experience for our students and patients.

We believe in our people, programs and purpose and look forward to continuing our work. Together, we are improving the lives of patients in our communities and enabling them to experience caring in action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Safiya George'.

Safiya George, Ph.D., APRN-BC, FAANP
Dean and Professor

FAU/NCHA Community Health Center



The Florida Atlantic University and Northwest Community Health Alliance's Community Health Center (FAU/NCHA CHC) is designated by the United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a "Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike." An FQHC is a clinic that provides comprehensive primary, behavioral health and preventive care to patients of all ages in underserved and rural areas. The purpose of FQHCs is to serve communities that may have financial disadvantages, language barriers, geographic barriers or other specific needs.

The Center, led by CEO and Executive Director Dr. Karethy Edwards, Director Desiree' Williams and Assistant Director Dr. Karen Wisdom-Chambers, provides a lifeline for primary and behavioral health care for this population, almost one quarter of which is uninsured, and many of whom have chronic conditions. All patients receive health care services regardless of their ability to pay.

Among the services offered at the two clinics in West Palm Beach are quality primary care and behavioral health services, vision and hearing screenings and pediatric care for children. Other services include geriatric care as well as routine sick visits and health maintenance, preventive care and chronic disease management. Diagnostic testing and laboratory testing services such as cholesterol and HIV testing also are available. As an American Diabetes Association "Diabetes Certified Education Center," services at the FAU/NCHA CHC also include diabetes patient and family education. In addition, FAU nursing students participate in educational outreach and health sessions on location at YWCA centers.



FAU/NCHA Community Health Center

Fiscal Year 2021-22 Impact

4,554
TOTAL PATIENT VISITS

52% OF PATIENTS HAVE HOUSEHOLD INCOMES
AT OR BELOW 200% FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

PATIENT POPULATION

BLACK 41%
HISPANIC 35%

WHITE NON-HISPANIC 12%
MORE THAN ONE RACE .4%

AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE .4%
ASIAN .4%

New Initiatives

Boca Helping Hands partnered with the College to provide more people in West Palm Beach with healthcare services at the FAU/NCHA CHC. Currently, Boca Helping Hands provides healthcare vouchers through Genesis Community Health clinics to serve low-to-moderate income clients in Boca Raton and Boynton Beach. This new partnership will expand healthcare access to populations in need of these services, but who are outside the reach of the locations of the Genesis clinics. (July 2021)

Other Community Health Center partners include:

- Belle Glades community health educators
- Bridges of West Palm Beach
- Mental Health of America
- American Heart Association
- City of West Palm Beach



Award Recognition

The FAU/NCHA CHC, together with the West Palm Beach YWCA, received the 2021 Community Collaborators Award from Nonprofits First, Inc., the leading resource for strengthening the administrative and operational capacity of nonprofit organizations in Palm Beach County. Among the honorees at the November event were Drs. Karethy Edwards and Karen Wisdom-Chambers. They received this recognition for their untiring efforts to mitigate health care disparities among women from minority groups with limited access to quality care.

FAU/NCHA Community Health Center

Special Events

- The Center hosted COVID-19 vaccine booster days and administered almost 200 booster shots, along with a few initial vaccinations. (Nov. 4, 9 and 12, 2021)
- Dr. Karethy Edwards spoke about the importance of vaccinations to sanitation workers in West Palm Beach. (Nov. 2021)
- Drs. Marlene Brennen and Karen Wisdom-Chambers went to Inlet Grove Community High School in Riviera Beach to give boosters to 27 teachers and staff. (Dec. 2021)
- Dr. Marlene Brennen was a speaker at the West Palm Beach Community Healing Gathering held on December 11, 2021. She spoke on the effects of COVID-19 in under-resourced communities.
- In partnership with Tabernacle Church, the clinic conducted both antigen and PCR COVID-19 screenings. A total of 164 adults and children from the Northwest community were screened (with Devon Labs and Tabernacle Church Park in WPB). (January 13 to 16, 2022)
- Dr. Karethy Edwards delivered a public health talk in West Palm Beach in honor of Nurses Week. (May 5, 2022)



Looking Ahead

The FAU/NCHA CHC plans to expand its reach and provide health screenings and physical examinations for Dunbar Village residents.

Locations

Westgate Community Health Center
1650 Osceola Drive
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

U.B. Kinsey Educational and Community Center
720 Eighth Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Memory and Wellness Center



The Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center, led by director Dr. Maria Ortega, Associate Dean of Clinical Practice, is a unique and integral component of the College of Nursing and is grounded in its philosophy of caring. Its mission is to meet the complex needs of persons with memory disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease, and their families through a comprehensive array of services,

compassionate and innovative programs of care, research and education. Each person is treated as an individual, with dignity and respect, and enabling each client to function at his or her personal best while maximizing their quality of life.

In addition to the services provided, the Center conducts research on best practices in care for persons with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) and caregiver support. It also provides practicum experiences for students of nursing, medicine, social work, exercise science, neuropsychology, communication disorders, health administration and other disciplines. In July 2005, the Memory and Wellness Center became a state-designated Memory Disorder Clinic under the State of Florida's Alzheimer's Disease Initiative. As such, the Center actively participates in the state network of 16 Memory Disorder Clinics.

Fiscal Year 2021-22 Impact

- Sustaining the Caregiver Program = 7
- Caregiver Support Groups weekly, including specialized groups for Adult Children, Younger Onset, General Caregiver, and Spanish/Haitian Creole-Speaking Populations, conducted virtually.
- Support Groups for Family Caregivers = 247
- Caregivers Served = 322
- Caregivers Attended Support Groups = 938
- Follow Up Care-Supportive Services = 900
- Check-in Calls; Caregivers/Patients = 435
- Mental Health Services = 89 Patients in 266 encounters (Psychiatric and Psychotherapy Evaluation and Treatment)
- Telehealth Visits = 158
- Research Referrals = 598
- Scholarships = 126

1,483
EVALUATION
VISITS

1,611
ADULT
DAY CARE
ATTENDANCE

Memory and Wellness Center

Special Events

The Caring Hearts Auxiliary hosted their 15th annual “Keep Memories Alive Walk in the Mall” and raised nearly \$155,000 for scholarships to underserved populations seeking services at the Memory and Wellness Center. (Nov. 7, 2021)

\$155,000
RAISED FOR
SCHOLARSHIPS



New Programming

The Memory and Wellness Center started a new support group, Transitions, that focuses on navigating the transitions relating to and within the family caregiver role after the loss of a loved one. (Oct. 2021)

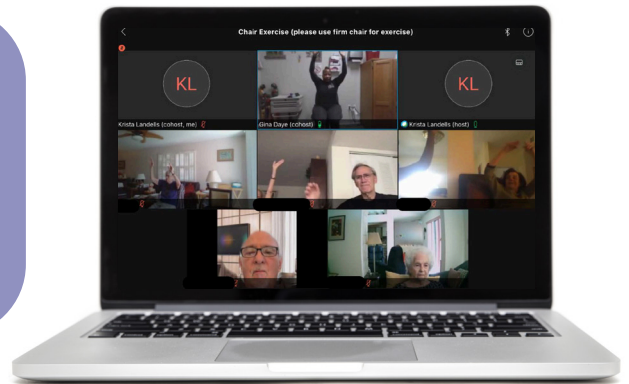
Community Support Services

- St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Hispanic Ministry - Grupo de Apoyo en Español Support Group provides educational seminars in Spanish and group discussions.
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Provides opportunities for Haitian Creole community members to discuss concerns as well as offer educational seminars and exercise programs.

Memory and Wellness Center

- Marcus Neuroscience Institute – This ongoing collaboration has resulted in clinical care for mutual patients of the Memory and Wellness Center.
- Palm Beach County Silver Alert System - The Florida Silver Alert System is used to locate missing persons suffering from an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties. Memory and Wellness Center staff work with the Silver Alert System and the public within the criteria set by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

THE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM PROVIDES A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS THAT ARE COGNITIVELY, PHYSICALLY AND SOCIALLY STIMULATING TO HELP PARTICIPANTS MAINTAIN THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL OF FUNCTIONING



Community Presentations

- Harbour's Edge, Independent Living Facility Community of Lifespace Communities, Inc. Presentation and offer of Memory and Wellness Center programs and services for their community's population. (July 2021)
- Broward Coalition on Aging. Presentation "Fitness to Drive." (March 2022)
- Learning Collaborative Masters of Public Health. Three-part series. Dr. Maria Ortega's presentation. (March 31, 2022)
- Self-Preservation Activities (SPA). These educational presentations help inform caregivers in the community about a variety of issues associated with caring for someone with memory loss. Topics include learning about, from and with other healthcare disciplines, integrating lifestyle changes, managing stress, planning for the future, fostering positive communications and building happiness.
 1. "Dementia Risk Reduction Strategies." Patricia Ordóñez, Health Wellness Coach. (Sept. 29, 2021)
 2. "Dysphagia: What You Need to Know." Audrey Butler, Nutritionist. Presented to an interprofessional team of healthcare professionals who help people living with ADRD and their family caregivers, such as the members at other 16 Memory Disorder Clinics throughout Florida and our network of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs' Dementia Care and Cure Initiative. (April 21, 2022)

Memory and Wellness Center

Community Engaged Teaching/Learning/Training

- Community Service-Learning student volunteers from FAU's College of Medicine, College of Nursing, School of Social Work, and Nova Southeastern's School of Psychology exist at the Memory and Wellness Center each semester. Fiscal year 2021-2022 has shown an increase in the number of students who visit our Center and Adult Day Care program. We provide practicum experiences for these students. For the period July 1, 2021 through April 13, 2022, we served 72 students from medicine, nursing, social work and psychology.
- Dementia Care and Cure Initiative for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Palm Beach Task Force. Dr. Maria Ortega works directly with the Department of Elder Affairs to lead Palm Beach Task Force members toward community engagement to improve care for Floridians affected by dementia and support research efforts to find a cure.

Looking Ahead

Memory and Wellness Center staff are preparing for its expansion to FAU's Davie campus. The Center will provide state-of-the-art diagnostic evaluations as well as early and ongoing support for family caregivers.



FAU College of Nursing Academic Service-Learning

FAU defines Academic Service-Learning (ASL) as a teaching pedagogy that integrates community service with instruction and reflection. It is designed to enrich the learning experience through hands-on activity and to teach civic responsibility.

ASL is more than just a volunteer activity. Students are required to apply what they learn in the classroom and reflect on their experiences by thinking, discussing and writing about them. It also teaches students how to apply academic knowledge to real-life civic issues, promotes teamwork and collaborative problem-solving, develops life skills and makes learning more personally meaningful.

COLLEGE OF NURSING LOGGED ACADEMIC SERVICE-LEARNING HOURS 2021-22

SUMMER 2021

768
HOURS

FALL 2021

3,899
HOURS

SPRING 2022

1,477
HOURS

Number of Engaged Faculty Teaching ASL Courses = 7

Student Outreach and Community Involvement

FAU Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing student organizations are highly engaged in educating and treating local residents and supporting community organizations.

Student Nurses' Association

The FAU Student Nurses' Association (SNA) is designated as a Stellar Chapter of the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) due to its commitment to their core values: advocacy, professionalism, quality education, diversity, leadership, autonomy and care. Since 2016, the SNA has been designated as a Diamond Chapter of the Florida Nursing Student Association. SNA members received the award in January 2022 for their high level of activity and engagement during challenging times.

Its many activities include professional development opportunities, leadership training and mentoring, Florida Nurses' Association Advocacy Days, charity events, community service and more. The group provides community health and service projects such as health screenings, service projects, holiday adopt-a-family, health education and promotion events and fundraising walks. Additionally, the SNA reaches out to our global community by focusing on health challenges in underserved countries. Twice a year, the SNA sponsors a study abroad cultural immersion and service program to Guatemala, as well as raises funds to purchase woodstoves for families in Guatemala.

SNA Events

- Diabetes Coalition Event - A group of SNA members and one of our SNA advisors, Dr. Debra Hain, traveled to Belle Glade to provide hemoglobin A1C checks, blood pressure checks and health assessments. (Oct. 31, 2021)
- SNA participated in the “Keep Memories Alive Walk in the Mall” (Nov. 2021)
- SNA President Brooke Nicholas joined the 2022 Florida Nurses Association (FNA) virtual Advocacy Days event. (Jan. 19 and 20, 2022)
- Oncology nurse and tech mogul Tanya Sam joined Dean Safiya George in an interactive forum to share her journey and experiences with SNA and other students as part of FAU’s celebration of Black History Month. (Feb. 22, 2022)
- SNA participated in the College’s Make-A-Wish Walk for Wishes 5K team to help raise money for critically ill children in our community. (Feb. 5, 2022)



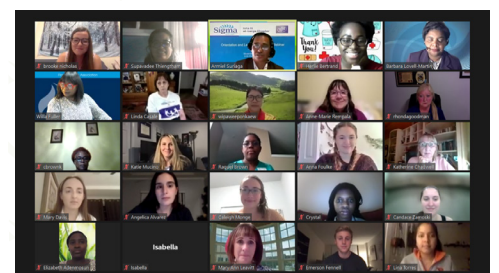
Sigma Iota Xi Chapter-at-Large

Nationwide, Sigma is recognized for its support of scholarship, excellence in nursing practice and funding opportunities in nursing research. Through Sigma's commitment to professional development, numerous educational offerings and products serve to advance learning and improve world-wide health.

Membership is by invitation to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, and to nurse leaders who exhibit exceptional achievements in nursing.

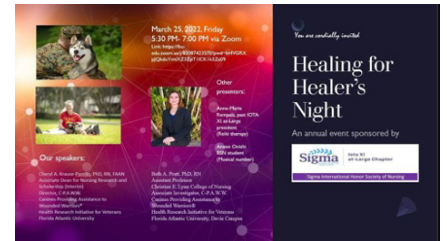
Events

- Sigma members participated in the "Keep Memories Alive Walk in the Mall." (Nov. 2021)
- Volunteered for the COVID-19 vaccine booster shot program at the FAU/NCHA Community Health Center. (Nov. 12, 2021)
- Our Sigma chapter collected more than \$320 and donated it to the Children's Aid Club to provide toys and gifts to underserved children in South Florida. (Dec. 31, 2021)
- Participated in the 13th annual Make-A-Wish Walk/Run at Markham Park, Broward County. Raised \$1,000 to benefit children with critical illnesses. (Feb. 5, 2022)
- President of the Sigma IOTA XI At-Large Chapter Dr. Armiel Suriaga shared his research on preventing underage drinking during the Make-A-Wish Walk/Run by distributing educational materials about alcohol-related mortality aimed at reducing avoidable deaths from alcohol in the community (Feb. 5, 2022)
- The Chapter hosted a virtual Healing for Healer's Night event that was open to the community. The event aimed to help nurses and caregivers cope with stress during the COVID-19 pandemic. Guest speakers included College faculty members Drs. Cheryl Krause-Parello and Beth Pratt. (March 25, 2022)



Sigma Iota Xi Events Cont'd

- Dr. Armiel Suriaga presented “Tips to Nip Cannabinoid-Related Deaths in the Bud” for FAU’s Division of Research’s Virtual Research in Action lecture series to raise community awareness about the dangers of synthetic cannabinoids. (Sept. 30, 2021)
- The group hosted an international webinar, “Utilizing Research to Address Global Healthcare Challenges.” Together with the College, guests from different corners of the continent presented as discussion panelists. (March 31, 2022)
- The Chapter conducted Research Night to showcase research work and evidence-based projects of our BNS, DNP and Ph.D. students and faculty. The event was open to the public with the goal of disseminating key research that affects the community. (April 14, 2022)
- Dr. Armiel Suriaga presented a talk for the Filipino community at St. Louis University in the Philippines regarding opioids. (May 20, 2022)



Award

The group received the chapter key award from Sigma International during its 46th Biennial Convention. (Nov. 2021)



Nurses Christian Fellowship

Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) is both a Christian professional organization and a ministry of and for nurses and nursing students. The purpose of NCF, as a ministry of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, is to establish and advance nursing, within education and practice, and caring for people of every ethnicity and culture around the world.

Events

- The Nurses Christian Fellowship sent personal Thanksgiving notes to FAU Nursing faculty and staff. (Nov. 2021)
- Under the leadership of Drs. Mary Ann Leavitt and Lisa Weise, NCF donated funds to support the school nurse at the South Florida Haiti Project in Bondeau, Haiti. The school nurse provides the only access to ongoing health care in this low resource country.
- NCF participated with Sigma Theta Tau in a holiday gift drive for the Children's Aid Society. (Dec. 2021)

General Student Involvement

- FAU Nursing joined Cross Country Healthcare for a pizza party to support two great causes. Fifty percent of the proceeds went toward the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night fundraising event, and the other 50 percent went toward a scholarship for FAU oncology nursing student McKenna Keith. (Oct. 13, 2021)
- Sigma Iota Xi and other friends of the College generously donated 34 gift cards to the Village Academy's Head Start program. (Dec. 2021)
- The College of Nursing participated in the virtual Spirit of Giving 2021 Holiday Gift Drive and collected toy donations for Boca Helping Hands and Bridges of West Palm Beach. (Dec. 2021)



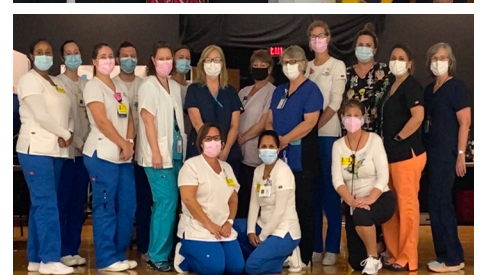
Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing Advisory Board Outreach and Community Involvement

- FAU Nursing Advisory Board Member Tim Snow/George Snow Scholarship Fund was inducted into the Boca Raton Historical Society's Walk of Recognition. College of Nursing Advisory Board Chair Terry Fedele and board member Jay Van Vechten were also honored. (Dec. 2021)
- Dean Safiya George, together with faculty members Drs. María Ortega, Sareen Gropper, Ruth Tappen and Lisa Wiese, participated in the panel discussion "Conversations on Healthy Aging" at the Royal Palm Yacht and County Club. (March 23, 2022)



Faculty Outreach and Community Involvement

- Dean Safiya George presented to the Rotary Club in Boca Raton. (July 2021)
- Dean Safiya George presented to the Black Nurse Practitioners of Palm Beach County on the topic, "Building and Connecting the NP Community through Education." (Oct. 2021)
- Dr. Shirley Gordon volunteered with the Federal Medical Reserve Corp. to provide medical screenings at Stuart Middle School. (Oct. 2021)
- Dr. Debra Hain represented nurse practitioners on Florida Network 7 for the Forum Medical Advisory Council. (Oct. 2021)



Faculty Outreach and Community Involvement Cont'd

- Professor Emeritus Jill Winland-Brown broadened her volunteer activities at the HANDS/Volunteers in Medicine Clinic as the head of the new mobile health unit. The HANDS clinic provides primary healthcare to qualified, low income, uninsured residents in St. Lucie County. Nurse practitioner students from FAU's Harbor Branch campus also joined Dr. Raquel Brown on the mobile health unit. (Nov. 2021)
- Dr. Donna Linette presented, "The Importance of Managing Our Stress During a Pandemic" for the Jack and Jill Children's Center in Fort Lauderdale, where parents are offered an 8-week educational series by their school nurse. (March 2022)
- Dr. Lisa Wiese participates in faith-based brain health and dementia prevention education and screenings throughout the community, including St. John Baptist Missionary Alliance. (Feb. 2022)
- Dr. Nancy Harris and her research team provided residents with helpful techniques on how to reduce toxic exposures on fruits and vegetables and avoid toxins such as harmful algal blooms during the City of Pahokee Centennial Celebration. (May 2022)
- In honor of Earth Day, Dr. Shirley Gordon, Dr. Kathi Harvey and Marybeth Pena supported the Community Garden in Indiantown where families learn to grow and share food and exchange cultural recipes. (April 2022)





FAU

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