college of nursing

CAROLINA'S PROMISE

THE CAMPAIGN for the UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
"The USC College of Nursing has a vibrant history of developing bold and decisive leaders, many of whom continue to create strategic, high-impact solutions for complex healthcare systems."

Peggy Hewlett, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean
“Every calling is great when greatly pursued.”

- Oliver Wendell Holmes

Perhaps no university in the Southeast has more educational, economic, and health impact on its state than the University of South Carolina. The USC College of Nursing is a major reason why.

Healthcare as we know it is changing rapidly, but one thing will never change. Nurses from USC will continue to be central to every phase of one’s life journey. In fact, nurse leaders have never been more critical to the health and welfare of the public. Our alumni will continue to be a powerful influence in the state, the nation, and the world.

Nurses are — and always have been — the backbone of the healthcare workforce. Since our accreditation in 1957, the College of Nursing has become one of the largest nursing colleges in the Southeast and we grant all three levels of academic degrees. Our master’s program is ranked in the top tier of schools nationally by U.S. News & World Report, and we are among the first four nursing colleges to receive national accreditation for the Doctorate in Nursing program. Further, our College was selected as one of only five baccalaureate degree nursing programs in the nation to participate in a national multi-site study of simulation use in prelicensure nursing programs. We continue to establish benchmarks for the profession and for South Carolina as we grow.

Quality of life depends on the quality of healthcare. Your gifts to the USC College of Nursing are an investment in our future caregivers, leaders, teachers, and researchers, and will support our goal to advance nursing and transform the quality of healthcare delivery in the United States.
“Supporting nursing students at USC is an investment that reaps rewards because dedicated students like me receive an exceptional education, then graduate and go on to represent the University throughout the world – changing and impacting many lives along the way.”

Blake Frazier, BSN
“The trained nurse has become one of the great blessings of humanity, taking a place beside the physician and the priest.”

- William Osler

Students, like Blake Frazier, ’12, in USC’s nursing program are highly motivated and talented, but it takes more than intellect to endure all the challenges ahead. Our students pursue a nursing career because they want to bring relief to people in need, but there is something deeper that guides them.

“Nurses are with people during some of the worst times of their lives and you take care of them when they cannot take care of themselves. Here at USC, I have excellent professors who go the extra mile for students. I will be more than prepared to enter the workforce as a staff registered nurse,” says Frazier.

Earning his Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at USC has opened doors for Frazier, even before his graduation in May 2012. He spent the summer of 2011 interning at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., a world-renowned medical center, and he plans to return for full-time employment after graduation.

“The College of Nursing has provided clinical opportunities, but I’ve also had chances to serve in leadership roles,” he says. Frazier serves as President of the Student Nurses Association, is a member of the College’s Partnership Board, and was recently elected President of the South Carolina Student Nurses Association. He leads by example as an advocate for nursing and higher education.

Your scholarship gifts will enable us to provide support to students like Blake Frazier — our future nurse leaders and innovators.
Lisa Williams, BA, DNP, MSN/Ed, MSM, APRN, FNP, BC

“The need for family nurse practitioners just keeps growing because of healthcare reform and because of the shortage of primary care providers. Partnerships we have across the state help us to prepare future practitioners and registered professional nurses who are so desperately needed.”
“I believe that every human soul is teaching something to someone nearly every minute here in mortality.”

- M. Russell Ballard

Our faculty at USC’s College of Nursing has extensive knowledge and experience, and they excel in nursing education, research, and practice. They use their time, talents, experience, and expertise to inspire, engage, support, and challenge our students. Their passion is preparing the next generation of nurses.

Lisa Williams, ’97, ’09, graduated from USC-Aiken with an associate degree in nursing. Today, Professor Williams holds a doctorate in nursing practice and is co-coordinator for the medical-surgical classes at USC in Columbia. “Years ago, I volunteered at a nursing home and fell in love with providing care for those in need. That was just the beginning,” she says.

Williams’ passion for teaching recently earned her the 2011 Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher of the Year Award, a significant achievement. But here’s the extraordinary part — she just completed her first year of teaching.

“As I pursued higher levels of academic achievement, I tutored more and more students who wanted to become nurses. While studying for my doctorate, I realized that not only did I love nursing, but I loved teaching as well. Being able to do both is the ultimate for me.”

Your gifts to faculty development will enable us to recruit, retain, and support talented faculty such as Lisa Williams who have a passion for teaching and a commitment to providing the best for all our students.
“Nursing programs are costly to operate and require funding to support faculty and technology, and with the current state budget cuts and economic turmoil we are experiencing it is more important than ever to seek out collaborative public-private partnerships to meet the healthcare demands across our state.”

Amber Williams, '00, BSN; '03, MSN; APRN; BC; FNP
South Carolina needs more highly skilled nurses as we move toward a new healthcare delivery system, especially in rural areas. The USC College of Nursing is uniquely situated to address these needs through public-private partnerships and by working closely with USC regional campuses in Salkehatchie and Lancaster. These relationships have transformed nursing education and practices in our communities.

The initial rural partnership was between USC Salkehatchie and the College of Nursing in Columbia. Substantial funding for this innovative program was provided by The Duke Endowment and the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina Foundation. The need for baccalaureate-prepared nurses had been well documented. The first class of students graduated in 2010, with 11 of 13 graduates finding nursing positions in the five-county service area surrounding USC Salkehatchie.

Sixteen students per year have the opportunity to complete the four-year nursing program at USC Salkehatchie, with coursework administered through a variety of distance learning technologies, and clinical practice taking place locally.

USC Lancaster had the applicants for nursing degrees, but not the financial support to open the classrooms and hire faculty. This need created the perfect opportunity to forge a public-private partnership with Piedmont Medical Center, which in 2008, provided a $1 million dollar gift that made the Lancaster program possible.

Academic-Service-Business partnerships are the key to addressing critical rural healthcare needs. We cannot do it alone.
“We want our students’ preparation to be the best it can be. Education through simulation plays a critical role in preparing students to have the confidence and skills they need, particularly when it comes to acting fast in a low-incidence, high-risk situation.”

Erin McKinney, BSN, MN, RN
“Panic plays no part in the training of a nurse.”

- Elizabeth Kenny

Healthcare delivery has become far more complex over the past several decades, with new technologies, new techniques, and new treatments. Patients entering hospitals today receive care with more-sophisticated diagnostic tools than ever before. The dedicated nurses who care for these patients must be able to think critically and make decisions quickly and accurately.

Education through simulation has been used in aeronautics and military training for almost 50 years. Today, it is changing the way nurses and other healthcare professionals are being prepared for their careers. From assisting in the delivery of a baby to dealing with the symptoms of cardiac arrest, our students train on high-resolution mannequins in a low-risk, high-reward simulated hospital environment that develops and enhances critical thinking skills.

Simulation is a creative teaching technique that is here to stay, but it is not inexpensive. Individual mannequins cost from $30,000 to $75,000 each, not including the audio-visual equipment, personnel and overhead expenses. “We can only sustain this high standard of education with help from outside funding. We’re teaching the professionals who will be taking care of those living in our communities tomorrow, so we want their preparation to be the best possible,” says Erin McKinney, ’80, ’85, Director of the Clinical Simulation Lab and Clinical Associate Professor.

Your gifts to simulation education will allow our students to learn, train and prepare for their careers in an efficient, technologically advanced setting.
“I hope people will support the college in any way they can to ensure that deserving students who come after me will receive the same quality of education, global experiences, and training that I have here. Whether it’s support through scholarships or the latest technology, the College needs to keep up so that our graduates will be well-prepared to serve as leaders in the profession.”

Emily Ingram, BSN
“Nursing encompasses an art, a humanistic orientation, a feeling for the value of the individual, and an intuitive sense of ethics and the appropriateness of action taken.”

- Myrtle Aydelotte

Most people are aware of the global nursing shortage, particularly in the areas hardest hit by poverty, disease, and natural disasters, and in response, nursing alumni from USC are making a difference all over the world. Our objective is to teach our students to think globally and to understand the critical importance of linking science and technology with the human experience.

Emily Ingram is a perfect example. Her educational experiences have taken her from Statesville, N.C. and Columbia, S.C. to Ecuador, Brazil, Nicaragua, and Romania. “I’ve had unbelievable experiences, from helping people with migraines and parasites in Nicaragua, to participating in a surgery at an oncology clinic at a medical school in Romania,” she says. “It’s been amazing.”

During the summer of 2011, Ingram, a Capstone Scholar, worked with a preceptor and interned with colorectal, emergency, and general surgical units at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. Ingram will graduate in 2012 and is considering a nursing specialty in perioperative care, and suggests that she would like to continue international relief work whenever possible.

More than 200 exceptional students like Emily Ingram who graduate with Bachelor of Science degrees each year from the College of Nursing are ready to make a difference in his or her own way. Your contributions can help them continue to do so.
“People must realize the nursing field evolves just as fast as the medical field, and the newer generations of nursing students must be adequately trained to handle patients safely and effectively immediately after graduation/licensing. Being the largest program in the state, the College will always be looked to for leadership and innovation. Supporting the College of Nursing will enable us to remain at the forefront of nursing education.”

Lt. (j.g.) Nathan Aranas, BSN
“They may forget your name but they will never forget how you made them feel.”

- Maya Angelou

The day he graduated from USC with his Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Nathan Aranas became Lieutenant (j.g.) Nathan Aranas, USNR. He soon found himself in Kuwait, Iraq, and later, in Qatar and Germany, caring for injured and ill military personnel. As a leader, he knew how to think quickly and make complicated decisions in highly stressful situations. The Charleston native is currently assigned to the Emergency Department of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington, DC.

A 2009 graduate, Aranas completed Navy ROTC training concurrently with his nursing studies at USC. He credits his NROTC training and his nursing education — as well as his clinical experiences at local hospitals — with making him an effective officer and leader.

“USC was, and continues to be, a pivotal part of my life. I would not change any of my experiences from there. During school, my mornings and Thursdays were reserved for the Navy, doing physical training or attending Naval courses in addition to my nursing ones. Otherwise you’d find me during the day in class, lab, and many of the Lexington and Richland county hospitals. Those experiences shaped who I am,” says Aranas.

The demand for registered nurses is expected to rise much more rapidly than nearly any other profession in the next decade, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Your generous support of the College of Nursing at USC can help meet this demand.
“The Children and Family Healthcare Center is one of the state’s only nurse-run clinics. We are currently doing a good job of meeting basic healthcare needs but there is so much more that can be accomplished through this Center with the help of our alumni and friends.”

Toriah Caldwell
MN, APRN, BC, FNP
“So never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small, for it is wonderful how often in such matters the mustard seed germinates and roots itself.”

- Florence Nightingale

The Children and Family Healthcare Center in Columbia is located in one of the most impoverished neighborhoods in the state. Owned and operated by the USC College of Nursing, it provides vitally needed primary healthcare services for a wide range of culturally diverse patients.

“There are people in our community who need access to basic healthcare. As the state’s flagship nursing school, we feel an obligation to be there for those who are in greatest need,” according to Toriah Caldwell, ’89, Director of the Center.

Nurse practitioner faculty and registered nurses from the College of Nursing are the primary healthcare providers at the Center. High-quality, affordable healthcare is provided by faculty as well as students from the College of Nursing. Students from the Schools of Pharmacy and Social Work also participate to gain real-world, practical clinical experience with impoverished, high-risk families. Quite simply, the Children and Family Healthcare Center provides a service that is saving lives.

Today, the Center serves more than 7,000 adult and pediatric patients. Many of the children are on Medicaid, are in foster care, or in protective custody. For these patients, the Center provides their only access to healthcare services.

The current turbulent economic environment has made maintaining the Center ever more challenging. Generous contributions to the College for this Center will ensure that urgently needed services continue to be provided to our most vulnerable citizens.
"I don’t intend to slow down until I’m forced to and I might fight it even then. The adventure is to be continued, wherever I can take it. It’s been a life with no regrets. I feel truly blessed."

Nancy Davis, BSN
“Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men.”
- John F. Kennedy

When Nancy Davis graduated from USC’s College of Nursing in 1969, she was the only one in her class to go directly into public health nursing. “The pay wasn’t good, but it wasn’t about the money. Public health appealed to my sense of social justice,” she says.

Davis’ strong desire to make a difference became a defining element in her career. She’d go on vacation and end up moving there. In Colorado, her next home, she earned a master’s degree in Community Health Nursing.

Alaska became her next big adventure — initially a vacation destination. She took a job as the only itinerant public health nurse in Alaska. “I’d fly to villages as ‘The Nurse’ and stay for a week,” she says. “I was the public health nurse from A to Z. Whatever issues were there, I took care of it.”

Davis became chief of public health nursing for Alaska in 1997, a position she held until her retirement in 2005. Shortly after retiring she set her sights on Africa, and for a time, lived with a Kenyan family while working with a Kenyan nurse in a remote dispensary where she treated malaria, intestinal worms, and bacterial infections – conditions she’d never seen. She vowed to go back, and has since continued to let her heart and compassion for mankind guide her in her world wide journey to make a difference.

Your contributions could help educate and train another Nancy Davis, an extraordinary College of Nursing alumna who has made a difference all over the world.
“Education is the hope of the world. The field of nursing is no exception. Helping to fund the education of nursing educators, to ensure they’re well trained and well qualified to prepare future generations of nurses, is an investment that pays immeasurable dividends.”

Carole Hudson Cato
“It would not be possible to praise nurses too highly.”

- Stephen Ambrose

Carole Hudson Cato has long been an advocate for education, and while not in the healthcare field herself, she has discovered the ideal means of investing in that passion.

The Columbia resident has endowed the Carole Hudson Cato Fellowship for PhD candidates in the College of Nursing, and is helping empower the careers of nurse-educators striving to reach the pinnacle of their chosen profession.

Doctoral-level nursing instructors are in increasingly short supply, and Cato says she’s happy to be able to help the College of Nursing meet the need for highly qualified, well-educated faculty.

“These are professionals who will be working for years, well-equipped and dedicated to training other nurses to carry on their own good work for generations to come. America could not function very well without excellent nurses, both female and male,” Cato says. “This is a great investment, one that just grows and grows. This was an easy decision for me.”

The need for PhD-level nursing instructors nationally is becoming even more critical. Substantial commitment to the College of Nursing capital campaign is crucial to the school’s efforts to fund the education of qualified instructors for the future.
“To best serve the public, we must educate many more students. The need for nurses with advanced degrees, in particular, continues to increase as our aging workforce and nurse leaders begin to retire. All of this requires extensive support. Now is the time for your assistance.”

Peggy Hewlett, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean
The USC College of Nursing is headquartered in the Williams-Brice Building at the heart of the USC campus in Columbia, but its reach extends far beyond those walls.

Each year the college educates approximately 1,100 undergraduate students and another 220 graduate students – preparing caregivers, advanced practitioners, professors, researchers, and nurse executives. “Caring” and “nursing” are clear concepts, something we all understand. But the reality is more complex: The supply of qualified nurses nationally, with South Carolina being no exception, is far short of the demand. As the state’s flagship nursing program, we have an obligation to address this need.

It’s estimated that as many as 10,000 baby boomers will turn 65 years old every day for the next 20 years. An aging population and nursing workforce, quickly-evolving healthcare technology needs, and a shrinking base of public funding all mean that private philanthropy is more critical than ever for the USC College of Nursing. Through the success of Carolina’s Promise, the historic capital campaign for the University of South Carolina, we will build a stronger University and College of Nursing.

To lend your support, please contact:
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CarolinasPromise.sc.edu

THE CAMPAIGN for the UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA