

## in this issue >>>

Mississippi Nurses Foundation

Mississippi Hospital Association

William Carey University

Singing River Health System

Mississippi Gulf Coast

What's Happening/Upcoming Events

Issue  
One

When you are a nurse,  
you know that everyday  
you will touch a life  
or a life will touch yours.

NURSE BUFF

## Mississippi Board of Nursing

### Office of Nursing Workforce Newsletter



### ONW Advisory Committee: Now accepting applications

The Office of Nursing Workforce is seeking qualified Mississippian applicants for its volunteer Advisory Board Committee. The Committee shall advise and assist the Office of Nursing Workforce in promoting a culture of health for the citizens of Mississippi by giving professional guidance, counsel, or advice on how ONW can advance nursing education, practice, and workforce development. Qualified applicants of interest are individuals who are health care professionals, health agency administrators, nursing educators, consumer representatives, and other appropriate professionals who can provide technical advice to the Office of Nursing Workforce,

[https://www.msbn.ms.gov/onw/sites/onw\\_msbn/files/FY2025%20Advisory%20Board%20Nominee%20Application.pdf](https://www.msbn.ms.gov/onw/sites/onw_msbn/files/FY2025%20Advisory%20Board%20Nominee%20Application.pdf)

## Message from ONW

I am thrilled to extend my warmest greetings as we proudly unveil the debut edition of our new initiative, **The ONW Newsletter**. This newsletter aims to serve as a valuable resource, fostering communication, collaboration, and continuous learning within our esteemed nursing workforce.

In this inaugural edition, we embark on a journey to illuminate the remarkable achievements, insights, and advancements within our dynamic nursing community. As the cornerstone of our healthcare ecosystem, nurses play a pivotal role in shaping the future of patient care, and **The ONW Newsletter** is designed to celebrate and champion their contributions.

We believe that **The ONW Newsletter** will not only serve as a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences but also as a catalyst for fostering a sense of community and unity among our dedicated nursing workforce.

We encourage you to dive into the enriching content of this inaugural edition and invite your feedback, suggestions, and contributions for future editions. Together, we can strengthen the bonds that define our nursing community and empower each other to provide exceptional care to those we serve.

Thank you for your commitment to excellence in nursing, and we look forward to embarking on this exciting journey with you through the pages of **The ONW Newsletter**.

# Mississippi Nurses Foundation Announces Marcia Rachel Endowment Fund

In celebration of what would have been her 69<sup>th</sup> birthday, on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Mississippi Nurses Foundation announced the establishment of the Dr. Marcia Rachel Excellence in Leadership Endowment Fund. Created in memory of Dr. Marcia Rachel, this fund will support scholarship opportunities for nursing students in Mississippi.

An initial gift from a group of generous donors and dear friends of Marcia, will provide up to \$20,000 in matching funds to support the fundraising goal of \$70,000. We hope that this will encourage family, friends, and colleagues of Marcia to support this long-term investment that will have a significant impact on the education and professional growth of our state's future nursing workforce.

Dr. Marcia Rachel began her distinguished career as a staff nurse. She quickly rose to leadership positions in numerous areas of nursing. After graduating from Mississippi College School of Nursing in 1976, Marcia received a Master's Degree in mental health nursing at the University of Southern Mississippi in 1978 and a doctorate in higher education and student personnel from the University of Mississippi in 1989.

Marcia served as the Executive Director of the Mississippi Board of Nursing from 1993 – 2002. She influenced many nursing students as a nursing instructor at Mississippi College, the University of Southern Mississippi, William Carey University, Pearl River Community College, and the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where she ended her outstanding nursing career as the Associate Dean of Academic Programs at the School of Nursing.

---

***MNF ask that  
you consider contributing to the fund to honor Marcia's long-standing  
history of putting others above self.***

Gifts accepted by the Mississippi Nurses Foundation to support the Marcia Rachel Endowment Fund are tax-deductible.

To find out more about how you can support this campaign, or for more information about eligibility to receive the Dr. Marcia Rachel Excellence in Leadership Award, please contact the Mississippi Nurses Foundation at [foundation@msnurses.org](mailto:foundation@msnurses.org).

*\*The Mississippi Nurses Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization that raises, accepts, and disburses charitable donations to promote professional nursing and better health in Mississippi.*



MHA HEALTH, RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION, INC.



**MCQW**  
Mississippi Center for  
Quality and Workforce

*The Mississippi Center For Quality and Workforce, under the leadership of the MHA Health, Research and Educational Foundation, Inc., would like to report the following successes recently coordinated through our office.*

### 2024 Mississippi Summer Student Nurse Externship Program



Strengthening Mississippi's Nursing Staff, One Student At A Time.

The Externship Committee met and then presented an Orientation Program. The 24-externship program has now completed the application phase. Hospitals are currently interviewing for summer hiring placement through their clinical affiliated SON partners. A total of 52 hospitals and 22 schools of nursing are participating in the program during the summer 2024. For more information, contact Robin Powell, Project Manager for the MS Center for Quality and Workforce at [rpowell@mhanet.org](mailto:rpowell@mhanet.org). You can learn more about this important career building tool at our webpage: <https://mhanet.org/Online/MCQW/Workforce.aspx>

## MISSISSIPPI SUMMER STUDENT NURSE EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM - 2023

Facilitated by the MS Center for Quality and Workforce within the MHA Foundation



During summer 2023, a total of 517 nursing students were employed in our hospitals, participating in the annual externship program. This successful program has been in operation for many years, allowing future healthcare professionals to gain bedside experience and provide care to patients under the supervision of a veteran nurse. The program guidelines and skills checklist are scrutinized to ensure guidelines are met. Many of these externs return to the same hospital for full-time employment after graduation.

A total of 38 hospitals partnered with 20 schools of nursing, making the 2023 program the largest group of participants to date.



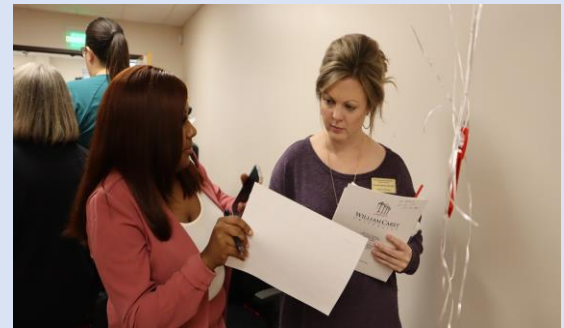
# LPN Advanced Placement - Hybrid Bachelor of Science in Nursing

## William Carey University



William Carey University School of Nursing introduced a hybrid version of their LPN Advanced Placement BSN program, making it easier for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) across Mississippi to become Registered Nurses (RN) while continuing to work. The hybrid program allows students to participate in theory classes taught using synchronous and asynchronous lectures and assignments, while clinical experiences are offered in various locations across the state based on enrollment and include simulations and in-person patient care. The inaugural cohort began the nursing program in the Fall 2023 term; and a second cohort just started the program with the beginning of WCU's spring term in February.

WCU has launched a similar 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Hybrid BSN program for people who earned a bachelor's degree in another field. The inaugural cohort of this program will begin in Fall 2024.



**WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY**  
JOSEPH & NANCY FAIR  
SCHOOL OF NURSING

## 2nd Degree HYBRID BSN Program

- **ONLINE** theory coursework
- Weekly in-person clinicals
- Full-time **OR** part-time
- Fall **OR** Spring Admission
- **FREE TEXTBOOKS!**
- **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE\***  
\*Terms apply
- **ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS NOW FOR FALL 2024\***  
\*Starts begin at WCU one term prior to nursing program

**NOW FOR FALL 2024**

- **ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**
- **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE\***
- **FREE TEXTBOOKS!**



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.

# Mississippi Nurses

## Help improve Mississippi Nursing Education

Participate in our study  
approved by USM's IRB:  
Protocol # 24-0120

### Requirements:

- Current or previous MS resident
- Received a nursing degree from an out-of state institution

We want  
to hear  
from you!

Win a  
\$25 gift  
card



[https://usmuw.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_a5EQ9W9wXMyEEFE](https://usmuw.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a5EQ9W9wXMyEEFE)



## ***Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and Singing River Healthcare Commemorates the Achievements of the PN Apprenticeship Program***



Singing River Healthcare Academy is delighted to announce the successful completion of its LPN Apprenticeship Program, culminating in the outstanding achievement of 13 apprentices who have passed the NCLEX-PN examination. Congratulations to the following individuals for their dedication and accomplishment: Shirley Deloach, Kathryn Ely, Allison Gordon, Amber Granger, Ruth Holliday, Carlos Lopez, Jamie Newman, Kellie Powell, Justin Richards, Brittany Seymour, Jenna VonWrycza, Theresa Williams, Joann Wright.

This accomplishment represents a significant milestone for Singing River Healthcare Academy, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC), the State Board of Nursing, and the committed participants. These apprentices not only successfully completed the program but also became the first cohort to do so in Mississippi, marking a historic achievement.

For additional information,

<https://singingriverhealthsystem.com/careers/healthcareacademy/healthcare-academy-need-more-info/> or <https://mgccc.edu/programs/schools/nursing-health-professions/nursing/practical-nursing-pn/>.

## **MGCCC and Singing River Health System forge historic partnership for Mississippi's Inaugural LPN Apprenticeship Program**

In a groundbreaking collaboration, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and Singing River Health System joined forces in May 2022 to introduce the state's inaugural Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) apprenticeship program.

During the 16-month program, apprentices engage in both theoretical and laboratory requirements at MGCCC's Bryant Center on Mondays and Wednesdays. The academic foundation is complemented with mentored on-the-job learning clinical sessions, paving the way for the NCLEX-PN® licensure exam upon completion. Apprentices in this pioneering program are employed at and carefully selected by Singing River Health System and are expected to seamlessly transition to working within the nursing health system post-program completion.

Dr. Joan Hendrix, Associate Vice President of the School of Nursing and Health Professions, highlighted the importance of this initiative, stating, "The health care labor issue isn't due to a lack of interest in the profession. It's overwhelmingly due to personal barriers that prevent interested individuals from obtaining the training and certification required to complete a health care career offered in a more traditional fashion. Registered apprenticeships help eliminate these barriers by providing opportunities for participants to earn while they learn. Although not commonly acted upon in health care, particularly in nursing, we believe it's the right time, and others will quickly follow this model."

This program, the first-ever LPN apprenticeship initiative in the state of Mississippi, serves as a model for conducting high-quality health care apprenticeships. The partnership not only addresses the need for clinical hands-on training but also empowers future LPNs by enabling them to work in the field concurrently, all while receiving compensation for their educational work.

Dr. Mary Graham, President of MGCCC, expressed her enthusiasm, saying, "We are excited about the incredible opportunities that the Mississippi Department of Economic Development and the Mississippi Apprenticeship Program are providing to individuals in our area. Not only does this program allow current Singing River Health System employees benefits of training, but other pre-approved individuals can also work to advance their careers or start a new career."

The Mississippi Apprenticeship Program, a collaborative effort of the Mississippi Community College Board, the Mississippi Department of Employment Security, and the Mississippi Development Authority, is funded by the Department of Labor's Apprenticeship USA Initiative







National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators

### *NADDI of Mississippi State Training Conference*

Brandon Civic Center  
1000 Municipal Drive  
Brandon, Mississippi 39042  
Wednesday, April 17, 2024  
7:30 am

Additional Information: <https://www.naddi.org/events/april-17-2024-mississippi-chapter-conference/>



**April 10, 2024 – April 11, 2024**

Register Today: <https://mslpn.org/convention/>





## The Mississippi Nurses Foundation Scholarships and Stipends for 2024

### **Nurse Oneita Dongieux Scholarship \$500**

Submission deadline is February 2, 2024

### **Betty Dickson Health Policy Scholarship up to \$2,000**

Submission deadline is February 2, 2024

### **Martha Douglas Memorial Scholarship \$1,000**

Submission deadline is February 2, 2024

### **MNF School of Nursing Scholarship - SPRING \$1,000**

Submission deadline is March 15, 2024 – Contact your School of Nursing

### **Car Tag Stipends \$5,000**

Submission deadline is June 7, 2024

### **Dr. Marcia Rachel Excellence in Leadership Award \$1,000**

Submission deadline is July 12, 2024

### **Lane-Ware Graduate Nursing Scholarship - \$1,000**

Submission deadline is July 12, 2024

### **Eileen S. & Earl C. Whittemore Advance Practice/Nurse Practitioner Award \$2,500**

Submission deadline is July 12, 2024

### **MS Nurses Foundation PhD Research Grants up to \$10,000**

Submission deadline is July 12, 2024

### **MNF School of Nursing Scholarship - FALL \$1,000**

Submission deadline is September 13, 2024 – Contact your School of Nursing

### **Georgia B. Hall Award of Excellence \$2,000**

Submission deadline is November 8, 2024

### **Hiawatha and Eunice Northington Memorial Scholarship \$1,000**

Submission deadline is November 8, 2024

### **Arthur L. Davis Scholarly Writing \$1,000**

Submission deadline is December 2, 2024

### **Brantley-Fletcher Award of Hope Book Scholarship \$250**

Submission deadline is December 2, 2024

Please visit [www.msursesfoundation.com](http://www.msursesfoundation.com) or call (601) 898-0850 for additional information.

# Spring Healthcare Career Fair 2024

*Employers, you'll have a chance to meet and sign the passport for over 350 nursing & health professional students graduating this May!*

- Nursing: ADN and PN
- EMT & EMS/Paramedic
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Radiologic Technology
- Respiratory Care Technology
- Surgical Technology
- CNA & Phlebotomy and many other health disciplines

**April 2**

**11am - 2 pm**

**Bryant Center @ Tradition**

**BE YOU BE  
GREAT**

**PASSPORT  
TO SUCCESS**

Did you know?

MGCCC's ADN program is ranked 6th in the nation and #1 in Mississippi by RNCareers.org and it's MLT, OTA and Respiratory students have a 100% pass rate?

This is an outdoor event. Bring your own tents, tables & chairs. Food trucks will be on-site.

To RSVP email: [lukeshia.nunnally@mgccc.edu](mailto:lukeshia.nunnally@mgccc.edu)  
We look forward to seeing you here!

# *final*thoughts...



Nurses are the heartbeat of healthcare. Their dedication, compassion, and tireless commitment to patient care make an immeasurable impact on the well-being of individuals and the effectiveness of healthcare delivery. They are the frontline heroes who provide comfort, support, and healing during times of vulnerability.

Nurses not only administer treatments and medications but also serve as advocates, educators, and empathetic listeners. Their holistic approach to patient care ensures not just physical well-being but addresses the emotional and mental aspects of health, fostering a more comprehensive healing process.

Let us continue to support and uplift our nursing community, recognizing their crucial role in maintaining the health and vitality of our society.

Thank you to all the nurses for your exceptional work and for being the backbone of healthcare.



*Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Office of Nursing Workforce*

If you are interested in sharing your news, articles, or updates for the upcoming newsletter, please send your information to: [switty@msbn.ms.gov](mailto:switty@msbn.ms.gov).

We appreciate your contributions and look forward to featuring your content in the newsletter.

Include details such as:

1. **Article/Content Submission:** Attach your article or content contribution for the newsletter.
2. **Contact Information:** Include your preferred contact information (email and/or phone number) in case there are questions or additional details needed.
3. **Media Attachments:** If applicable, attach any images, graphics, or other media files relevant to your contribution.