

# THE LAMP

## WHEN NURSES LEAD

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 **St. Elizabeth**  
SCHOOL OF NURSING  
Division of Franciscan Health

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# LETTER from the DIRECTOR

## To Readers of *The Lamp*,

Welcome to the 2025 edition of *The Lamp*, our annual alumni magazine that celebrates not only the milestones of our school but the extraordinary people—like you—who continue to shape the world of nursing.

This year's issue focuses on forward momentum. From groundbreaking innovations in AI-driven learning to the leadership of nurses making a system-wide impact, we are witnessing a profession in motion. Our feature on AI in nursing education highlights how we are embracing emerging technology while staying rooted in our mission to form nurses who serve with both clinical excellence and compassionate hearts.

We're also excited to share the progress of our St. Elizabeth Garden project. What began as a vision to repurpose the old school site will grow into a beautiful green space that will support the well-being of our students, faculty and staff for generations to come. As we celebrate the recent groundbreaking for the garden, we're looking forward to what this sacred space will become—a living symbol of renewal and care.

In this issue, you'll also meet some of our newest graduates and see familiar faces featured in our spotlights. These stories capture the unique spirit of our school—a place where community, mentorship and purpose come together to create a truly distinctive nursing education.

As always, I want to thank you, our alumni, donors, faculty and friends. You remain the heart of St. Elizabeth School of Nursing. Your faith in our mission, your investment in our students and your embodiment of our values continue to carry us forward.

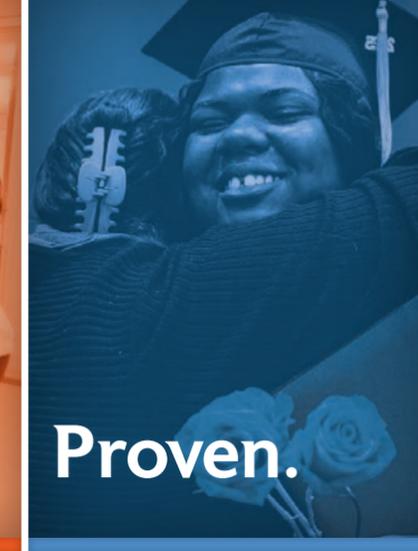
May this new year bring peace, purpose and plenty of green space to reflect and renew.

With gratitude,

**Michelle L. Gerrety, EdD, MSN, RN**  
St. Elizabeth School of Nursing Director



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### In memoriam of our alumni who walked in Christ's healing footsteps. Well done, good and faithful servants.

<b>Kathryn Mraz</b> Passed Aug 2024 1985 Graduate	<b>Pauline Wasson</b> Passed Feb 2024 1956 Graduate	<b>Sally Schrader</b> Passed Dec 2022 1959 Graduate	<b>Shirley Settlemeyre</b> Passed Sept 2024 1957 Graduate	<b>Karen Dicky</b> Passed July 2021 1972 Graduate
<b>Jane Collins</b> Passed Dec 2022 1958 Graduate	<b>Henrietta Ket</b> Passed Nov 2024 1954 Graduate	<b>Phyllis Maze</b> Passed May 2024 1961 Graduate	<b>Martha Gretencord</b> Passed May 2021 1954 Graduate	<b>Joan Schley</b> Passed Jan 2025 1955 Graduate
				<b>Mary Lou Donahoe</b> Passed Jan 2025 1954 Graduate

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St. Elizabeth School of Nursing is where ordinary people become extraordinary nurses. For over 125 years, we have focused on just one thing—nursing. Our holistic curriculum offers hands-on learning experiences. Small classes foster personal connections. Graduates leave primed for their aspired career—the career that, perhaps, chose them.

**Michelle Gerrety**  
St. Elizabeth School of Nursing Director  
**Lisa Decker**  
Vice President of Marketing and Communications, Franciscan Health  
**Julie Smith**  
Director of Development, Franciscan Health Foundation

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# CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS!

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Interested in serving on our Alumni Advisory Board of Directors?  
Contact **Julie Smith** at 765-423-6810 for more information.

*The Advisory Board currently meets 3-4 times per year,  
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## DECEMBER 2024



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Kennedy Houser



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Haley Hysong



Annie Pruitt



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## MAY 2025



Heath Applegate



Shenita Peete



Madelyn Crace



Tia Purdy



Trish Diaz



Charlize Rice



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Alicia Serrano



Kenia Hernandez



Jennifer Stone



Joel Maina



Alanis Yaya



Mariah Miller

## JULY 2025



Hannah Grachek



Rita Parkinson



Bree Hairston



Katrina Pucka



Kiley Howe



Ravine Wagoner



Kaitlyn Jordan



Deanna Zeigler

## WHEN NURSES LEAD

# BREAKING BARRIERS & SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE

Nurses have long been the steady hands and compassionate hearts at the bedside. But increasingly, they are also the strategic voices in boardrooms, policy discussions and executive offices. At St. Elizabeth School of Nursing, graduates are redefining what it means to be a leader in healthcare, merging clinical excellence with visionary leadership and a heart for service.

Two alumnae, Jess Corbin, MSN, RN and Star Meyer, JD, BSN, RN, exemplify this evolution. Both have navigated diverse and complex leadership roles, using their nursing backgrounds as a foundation to shape care delivery, advocate for patients and influence the systems that drive healthcare forward.



Jess Corbin, MSN, RN

### **Rooted in Purpose, Formed by Experience**

For Jess Corbin, the call to care came early. As the oldest of five siblings, nurturing others felt like second nature. “I had the calling at a young age,” she said. “At St. Elizabeth, instructors saw leadership in me before I saw it in myself.”

Jess’s career began at the bedside and spanned more than two decades within Franciscan Health. Her journey took a pivotal turn after a back surgery forced her to reconsider her future in direct patient care.

Rather than stepping away from nursing, she embraced new opportunities in case management, where she coordinated care across emergency, inpatient and outpatient settings. Eventually, she took on director-level roles overseeing system-wide transitions of care, emergency services, trauma programs and more, as the Chief Nursing Officer for Franciscan Health in Western Indiana, where she currently works.

“I truly feel that having both inpatient and ambulatory experiences has helped me understand how nursing plays a critical role in all areas of healthcare,” she said.

**“Our profession continues to evolve, and we must embrace both the art and the science of nursing.”**

For Star Meyer, nursing offered both personal and professional purpose. A teen mom, she needed a career that would allow her to support her family while making a meaningful impact. St. Elizabeth’s three-year diploma program with a BSN pathway gave her the structure she needed.

“The program was a lifeline,” Star said. “It allowed me to enter the workforce quickly and begin a fulfilling career. My instructors gave me a vision that nursing could be a platform for leadership, advocacy and change.”

Her path led from bedside care to executive leadership. She has served as Chief Operating Officer, Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Practice Officer across IU Health. Today, she leads as the Chief Nursing Officer for the IU Health West Region. In 2020, she added a law degree to her resume, graduating from IU McKinney School of Law and earning a Health Law Certificate.

“My nursing background has been the foundation of every step in my journey,” she said. “It has shaped my leadership, my legal training and my deep commitment to equitable, patient-centered care.”

### **Leading With Compassion and Clarity**

While their roles differ, both Jess and Star are united by a shared leadership philosophy—leading by example, with integrity and staying rooted in service. “I believe in leading with compassion, listening first and creating environments where people feel seen and inspired to grow,” Star said. “Leadership should always be grounded in the values that brought us to nursing in the first place.”

Jess echoes that sentiment. Her approach emphasizes open communication, relationship-building and staying connected to the front lines. She regularly rounds with teams and meets with leaders to understand what’s working and where support is needed.

“Change is hard, but necessary,” she said. “Staying close to the work helps ensure we’re meeting real needs, not just checking boxes.”

**“I’ve never forgotten what it feels like to care for someone in their most vulnerable moment.”**





Star Meyer, JD, BSN, RN

“Nurse leaders must be systems-minded, clinically skilled and equity-focused,” Star said.

**“We need leaders who can advocate, adapt and guide interdisciplinary teams through transformation.”**

Jess emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning and mentoring the next generation. “We must be ready to support the future of nursing—our students, our staff and our communities,” she said. “Leadership isn’t about titles. It’s about making a difference.”

Their current work reflects that vision. Star leads initiatives to redesign care models, improve team member well-being and strengthen the nursing pipeline. Jess continues to shape nursing operations across Franciscan Health, overseeing programs that support both staff and patient transitions of care.

#### The Legacy of St. Elizabeth

Both alumnae are quick to credit their formation at St. Elizabeth for setting them on the path to leadership.

“The school blends rigorous clinical training with realworld bedside education,” Star said. “It taught me how to think critically, advocate effectively and lead with heart.”

Jess agrees. “You’re treated like a person, not a number,” she said. “From day one, you learn by doing. That early, hands-on experience gave me confidence and prepared me for the complexities of nursing today.”

Today, Jess remains closely connected to the school, rounding with students and sharing her journey. “It’s an honor to be part of the legacy,” she said. “I’m proud to be a nurse and to lead an incredible team of professionals.”

In a world where healthcare is constantly evolving, the need for compassionate, capable nurse leaders has never been greater. St. Elizabeth School of Nursing continues to prepare nurses like Jess and Star to answer that call with courage, conviction and a commitment to care that goes beyond the bedside.

Both leaders draw deeply from their experiences in direct patient care, which remains central to their decision-making. “Every policy affects a real person and their family,” Star said.

Their leadership was especially tested during the COVID-19 pandemic. For Star, the experience was the most challenging—and the most meaningful—chapter of her career. “It required rapid decision-making during uncertainty, and it tested every aspect of leadership including communication, adaptability and emotional intelligence,” she said. “The teams I led showed incredible resilience. It was a privilege to support them.”

#### Faith as a Compass

At the heart of their leadership is a deep connection to the values instilled at St. Elizabeth—compassion, dignity, stewardship and a holistic approach to care.

Jess credits the legacy of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration with shaping her core values. “Their mission lives on in the care we deliver,” she said. “I try to live those values daily—respect for life, fidelity to our mission, compassionate concern, joyful service and Christian stewardship.”

Star’s leadership is similarly grounded in a people-centered ethos. “I strive to make thoughtful decisions that consider the well-being of the whole person—whether that’s a patient, colleague or team member,” she said. “Holistic care isn’t just a philosophy. It’s a way of leading.”

#### Shaping the Future of Nursing

As healthcare grows more complex, both women see nurse leaders as essential to innovation, strategy and sustainability.

YOU'RE INVITED

# ANNUAL ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNI LUNCHEON & SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

Join us for a heartwarming afternoon reconnecting with fellow alumni and celebrating the bright future of nursing! We're excited to host our annual luncheon and scholarship reception, a wonderful opportunity to share memories, forge new connections and support the next generation of compassionate caregivers.

NOV 1, 2025

REGISTRATION  
11:00AM

Eastern Standard Time

LUNCH  
12:00PM

St. Elizabeth School of Nursing  
1501 Hartford Street, Lafayette, IN

Please Enter Through Doors on East Side of Building

# RSVP

Please RSVP by **October 20, 2025**

by filling out and returning the enclosed RSVP card or by contacting Cindy Benner at [cindy.benner@franciscanalliance.org](mailto:cindy.benner@franciscanalliance.org) or (765) 423-6810.

#### PARKING INFORMATION

- **14th and Hartford Lot:** Parking is available in the lot on the corner of 14th and Hartford Street, directly across from Budge's Drive-In.
- **Handicap Parking:** Dedicated handicap parking spots are located right next to the chapel, accessible directly from Hartford Street.
- **Tippecanoe Street Lot:** An additional parking lot is available across from Tippecanoe Street. You can enter this lot by using the ramp located off 16th and Tippecanoe Street.

#### PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please make checks payable to St. Elizabeth School of Nursing. To pay by credit card, please contact Cindy Benner at the number above.

#### ACCESSIBILITY NOTE

If you require wheelchair assistance, please indicate this on your RSVP card or contact Cindy Benner directly so we can ensure your comfort and accessibility.



SCAN FOR EVENT DETAILS



# TWO GENERATIONS, ONE CALLING

## Linda Youngblood & Faith Pitstick

From Left to Right: Linda Youngblood & Faith Pitstick



For Linda Youngblood and her daughter, Faith Pitstick, nursing is a calling rooted in compassion, dedication and family legacy. Both women have walked the halls of St. Elizabeth School of Nursing, decades apart, yet united by a shared mission to serve with heart and skill.

Linda Youngblood, RN, graduated in 1975 after beginning her healthcare career as a respiratory inhalation therapist. Working the evening shift at the hospital, she found herself captivated by the nurses around her. By their confidence, their care and their ability to handle complex situations with grace. That early inspiration blossomed into a 38-year career filled with dedication and joy. “I loved nursing,” Linda shares. “I enjoyed my patients and taking care of them. I have gained many friends throughout the years.”

She remembers her time at St. Elizabeth vividly—the pride of wearing the uniform and cap, the high standards of professionalism, and the importance of always being “clean and kept,” representing the school with honor. “Nursing shaped me to handle different situations with thoughtfulness,” she reflects. “It taught me time and work management and the value of working alongside so many incredible professionals.”

Years later, her daughter, Faith Pitstick, would follow in her footsteps, drawing on her own 30-year journey in healthcare. From her first role as a receptionist at a long-term care facility to her time as a lab technician, phlebotomist and social service director, Faith felt a growing desire to do more—to connect more deeply and care more personally. Although her nursing career is starting later in life, Faith carries a unique blend of experience and perspective to the job.

“I’ve always found my career paths rewarding,” Faith explains, “but I knew I wanted to make a greater impact.”

For Faith, the experience of studying at her mother’s alma mater has been nothing short of transformative. “My mom received a fantastic education from St. Elizabeth, and her 38-year career is a testament to that. It means

the world to follow in her footsteps and share this bond.”

The lessons Linda passed on—love, compassion and commitment to community—have deeply shaped Faith’s path. “My mother has always inspired me with her dedication. I want to help people in their time of need just like she did, and one day, I hope to become a travel nurse, taking that same care and compassion wherever I go.”

As Faith approaches graduation, she carries more than a diploma and degree. She carries a legacy.

***Sharing this journey with my mother has created lasting memories and strengthened our bond. We’ve swapped stories, compared notes and leaned on each other. It’s a rare and beautiful experience.***

Through the support of her family and her own unwavering determination, Faith has already made her mark, remaining on the dean’s list for three consecutive semesters. Her mother beams with pride. “Faith will make an excellent nurse. She’s older, experienced and deeply committed. I know she’ll carry the tradition of St. Elizabeth with pride and integrity.”

In a profession that demands heart, hands and hope, this mother-daughter duo embodies all three. Their story truly reflects what happens when passion becomes purpose, and when legacy inspires the future. Even though nursing school came after a 30 year career for Faith, she proves that it is never too late to answer the call to be a nurse.



**DO YOU HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER INTERESTED IN BECOMING A STUDENT AT ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL OF NURSING?**

Scan the QR code or visit [steson.org/future-students](https://steson.org/future-students) to learn more!

**UPDATE**

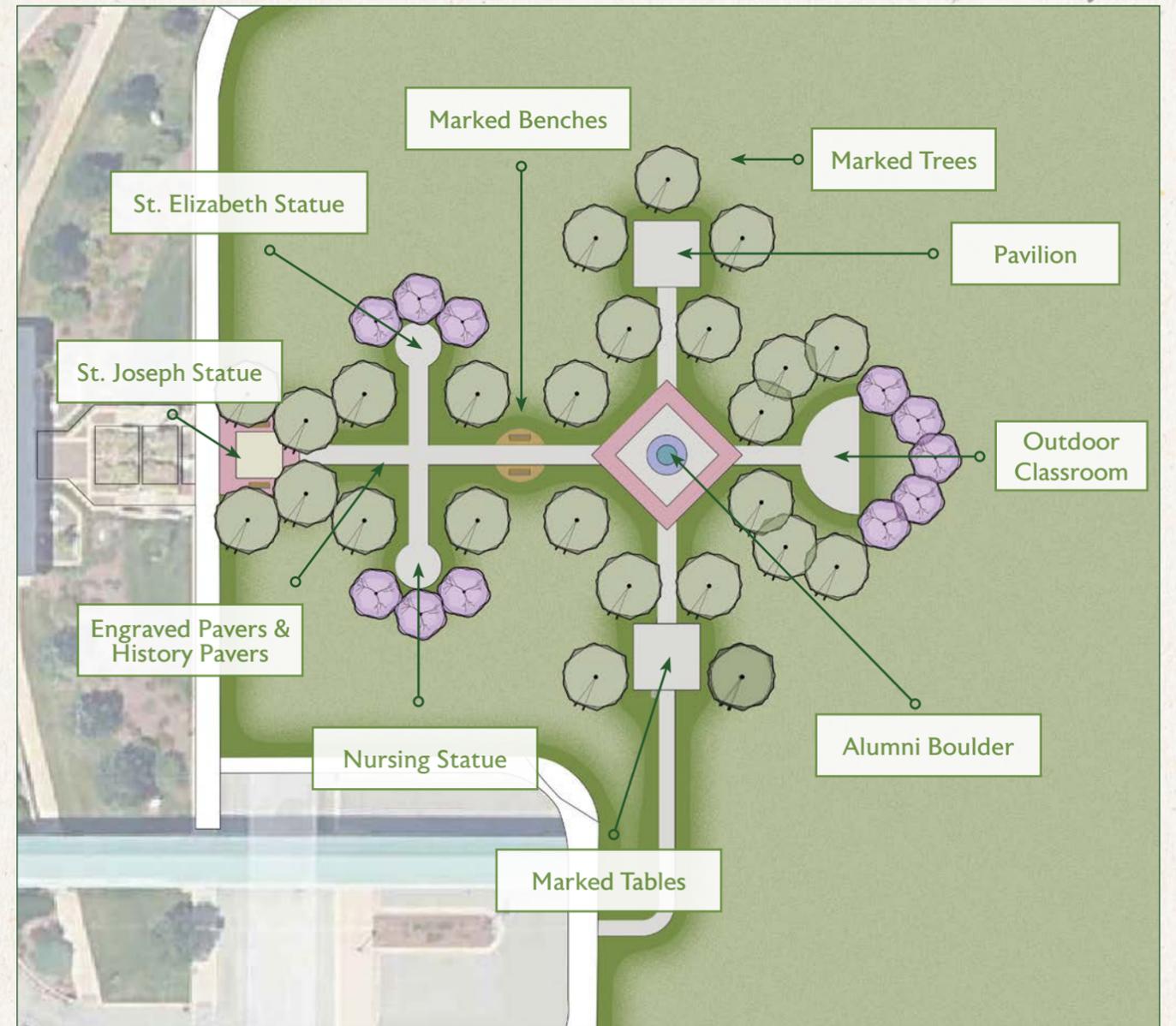
# THE GARDEN TAKES ROOT

We Have Broken Ground!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, we're excited to share that we've not only met but exceeded our fundraising goal for the St. Elizabeth Garden project! Your contributions have brought this vision to life, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who donated, shared and supported along the way.

Final preparations are complete, and we broke ground on August 4th. This garden, built by our community for our community, will be a lasting tribute to the legacy of St. Elizabeth School of Nursing.

Keep an eye out for updates about the dedication. We can't wait to celebrate this meaningful milestone with you!



## MISSED YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT THE GARDEN,

BUT STILL WANT TO SUPPORT THE ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL OF NURSING?

OPPORTUNITIES	NUMBER AVAILABLE	AMOUNT
Outdoor Classroom	0	\$50,000 (Funded)
Pavilion	0	\$25,000 (Funded)
Nursing Statue	0	\$25,000 (Funded)
Alumni Boulder	0	\$20,000 (Funded)
History Pavers	0	\$20,000 (Funded)
St. Elizabeth Statue	0	\$10,000 (Funded)
Landscape	0	\$5,000 (Funded)
St. Joseph Statue	0	\$5,000 (Funded)
Marked Tables	0	\$3,000 (Funded)
Marked Benches	0	\$2,500 (Funded)
Engraved Pavers	0	\$1,000 (Funded)
Marked Trees	0	\$500 (Funded)

Contact Julie Smith at 765-423-6810 or [julie.smith@franciscanalliance.org](mailto:julie.smith@franciscanalliance.org)

# BUILDING FUTURE LEADERS

*St. Elizabeth Students Step Up in the NSNA*

At St. Elizabeth School of Nursing, leadership doesn't start after graduation—it begins immediately. Nursing students Noah Blankenship and Marleigh Davis are stepping into that call through their involvement in the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA), an organization that connects and equips nursing students through advocacy, professional development and leadership opportunities.

### A Bridge to the Profession

"The NSNA acts as a bridge between nursing school and professional practice," said Noah, who currently serves as the St. Elizabeth chapter president. "It offers scholarships, mentorship and a sense of community—things that are vital to helping students explore their future with confidence."

Founded in 1952, the NSNA represents over 60,000 members nationwide. Local chapters, like the one at St. Elizabeth, offer students the chance to connect, collaborate and grow beyond the classroom. It's a place where future nurses begin shaping the profession they're about to enter.



Noah Blankenship  
(President)

### Leading With Purpose

For Noah, joining the NSNA was a way to find clarity in the vast landscape of nursing careers. "With so many paths available, I struggled to figure out where I fit. NSNA helped me realize how powerful

it is to connect with others and explore options in a supportive environment," he said. As president, he's helping organize networking events to connect students with nurses across different specialties.



Marleigh Davis  
(Vice President)

Marleigh, who recently stepped into the vice president role, sees NSNA as both a personal challenge and a chance to serve. "I wanted to support other students and help

create a more connected, encouraging space during nursing school," she said. "It's already helped me step up and use my voice in new ways."

### More Than a Resume Builder

Both leaders agree—NSNA isn't just about career prep. It's about building friendships, gaining confidence and discovering purpose. "Whether you're just starting out or thinking ahead to your future, NSNA gives you tools to grow," Marleigh said.

Noah added, "It's a reminder that we're not alone in this. Our voices matter, even as students." From national conferences to local chapter events, the NSNA offers nursing students a unique opportunity to lead, connect and advocate—qualities that will serve them well in every corner of the healthcare field.

### WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Ask a current NSNA member or faculty advisor how you can join and help shape the future of nursing—starting now.



# TERRY & ANNETTE WILSON

*A Legacy of Leadership & Giving Back*

For Terry and Annette Wilson, giving back to the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing is an extension of their lifelong commitment to healthcare and the values that guide their lives.

Terry, President and CEO of Franciscan Health Western Indiana, has served in Catholic healthcare for nearly three decades. One of his greatest privileges, he says, is signing diplomas for St. Elizabeth graduates—a tradition he's honored to continue three times a year.

"It's one of my favorite parts of the job," he said. "This school has been here for more than 125 years. It's the last hospital-based nursing school in the state of Indiana. That means something—and it should be supported."

Annette, Terry's wife and partner in mission, has also been deeply connected to the Franciscan community. Together, they have spent 28 years walking alongside the Sisters and supporting both the healthcare and missions of Franciscan Health.

***We've always believed that when God gives you resources, you're meant to use them to help others.***

Terry said. "For us, supporting the School of Nursing has always felt like one of the most important ways to do that."

Their commitment is rooted in a clear understanding: hospitals can't function without nurses. "The definition of a hospital is 24-hour nursing care," Terry noted. "It's that simple."

The Wilsons' gifts have helped ease the financial burden for nursing students, many of whom they've had the joy of meeting at alumni events and celebrations. "It's always wonderful to see students who received support through our scholarships," Terry said. "And even more special when we see them walking the halls of our hospitals."

Their impact extends beyond the school's walls. By investing in nursing education, the Wilsons are helping to strengthen healthcare across the region. "Good healthcare attracts people and investment to a community," Terry said. "That starts with having enough well-trained nurses."

What do they hope students remember about their support? "That our support made the journey a little easier," Terry said. "If it helped reduce a loan or made it possible to start a career sooner, then we did something worthwhile."

For Terry and Annette, leaving a legacy through the School of Nursing isn't about recognition—it's about action. "If you talk about how important nurses are, you've got to put your money where your mouth is," Terry said. "Annette and I have always tried to do that. And if our giving inspires someone else to give too, then that's even better."

# AI IN NURSING EDUCATION

## How St. Elizabeth School of Nursing is Embracing AI to Elevate Clinical Training & Decision-Making

Artificial intelligence is reshaping many areas of healthcare from how vital signs are monitored to how early interventions are recommended. At St. Elizabeth School of Nursing, these advancements are being welcomed not with fear or fanfare but with thoughtful integration rooted in the school's mission to form compassionate, discerning nurses.

### A New Learning Partner

This year, St. Elizabeth School of Nursing will continue to work with Assessment Technologies Inc. (ATI), a leader in standardized testing and AI-driven learning tools. A dedicated consultant from ATI will be joining the school's faculty to introduce adaptive assessments, data dashboards and AI-enhanced feedback into the classroom and simulation lab.

These tools are not replacing traditional education. Instead, they are helping students develop confidence and clarity in a healthcare system that increasingly relies on technology. According to ICU Clinical Resource Nurse Jessica M. Smith, BSN, RN, who serves at Franciscan Health Lafayette East, this type of integration is already part of daily life for nurses in the field.

"We utilize AI in our EMR that assists with monitoring patients and alerts providers if a patient has significant changes," she said. "I've also used AI to help create case scenarios for critical care novice nurses, which has been a valuable educational tool."

### Strengthening Clinical Reasoning

With the support of AI-enhanced modules, students are practicing how to assess complex patient cases using both data and discernment. In simulation labs, they may encounter AI decision-support features—tools that highlight concerning trends or offer evidence-based suggestions for care.

But students aren't being taught to follow these recommendations without question. Instead, faculty guide them to critically evaluate each suggestion, ask thoughtful questions and apply clinical judgment. In this way, technology becomes a tool that strengthens reasoning rather than replacing it.

Smith agrees, emphasizing that these realistic simulations help bridge the gap between theory and practice. "AI allows students and nurses to participate in scenarios that respond accurately and immediately to interventions," she said. "It builds critical thinking, decision-making and clinical confidence in a safe, low-risk environment."

### Learning to Read Patterns Not Just Charts

As part of the updated curriculum, students are also introduced to AI-supported tools that help flag early signs of conditions like sepsis or stroke. These experiences are forming a new generation of nurses who are confident in interpreting electronic alerts, sifting through large volumes of information and staying calm amid rapid change.

"We're not teaching students to be technicians," said Smith.

*We're teaching them to be thoughtful clinicians who understand how to balance information with human presence.*

Smith echoed the value of pattern recognition and early intervention, but she also offered a word of caution. "AI has come a long way, but it will never fully replicate the complexity and unpredictability of real patients," she said. "There's no substitute for hands-on care, and that human connection must remain at the heart of nursing."

### Supporting Faculty in the Transition

To ensure the integration of AI tools is aligned with the school's academic and spiritual mission, faculty are receiving direct support from ATI through workshops, mentoring and ongoing collaboration. These sessions help instructors bring AI into the curriculum in a way that is rigorous, respectful and rooted in person-centered care.

Jessica Smith sees faculty support and ongoing training as essential. "It's vital that students and nurses understand where AI gets its information—and that not everything it suggests is always accurate," she said. "Knowing how to use AI effectively, and when to question it, is just as important as knowing how it works."

### Alumni at the Forefront

Graduates are already seeing the benefit. One alumna now working in a busy medical-surgical unit reflected on how training with AI simulations helped her understand complex alert systems in her hospital's electronic records.

"Because I practiced with that kind of decision support in school, I wasn't overwhelmed when I saw it in the real world," she said. "It gave me a foundation to trust my judgment and respond quickly but compassionately."

Smith believes AI-powered learning platforms are helping prepare students to meet challenges earlier in their careers. "Students can now identify their own learning gaps and use AI to build personalized study tools," she said. "It's a fast, flexible way to strengthen skills—but it works best when paired with real-world feedback and expert mentorship."

### Technology With a Heart

As exciting as these changes are, the heart of St. Elizabeth's mission remains unchanged. The school's Catholic tradition calls students to care for the whole person—mind, body and spirit—and to do so with humility, wisdom and compassion.

In this evolving environment, AI is not the focus. Formation is. Technology is simply one more opportunity to help students become the kind of nurses who listen deeply, think clearly and serve faithfully. Smith reminds us that balance is key. "If we rely too much on AI for training, we risk losing the human connection that is so essential in healthcare," she said.

*We need a healthy combination of AI-driven learning and in-person, hands-on experience.*

### Looking Ahead

With the ATI consultant soon to be educating faculty about practical strategies for using AI in nursing education, St. Elizabeth is preparing to roll out additional AI-informed learning features, including:

- Virtual patient scenarios that adapt in real time based on student decisions
- Predictive analytics dashboards that help personalize learning plans
- Clinical partnerships that allow students to use AI-supported decision tools under supervision

Each initiative is grounded in the school's vision: to form nurses who are not only clinically excellent but also ethically grounded and spiritually aware.

Looking to the future, Smith imagines AI tools that serve as real-time companions for new nurses. "I'd love to see a pocket-sized AI tool that links novice nurses to experts on demand," she said. "Something that offers clinical guidance, access to reliable information and learns with you—not just alerts you. That kind of support could be transformative in critical care."

In a world where technology moves fast, St. Elizabeth nurses are being prepared to move wisely, bringing light, learning and leadership into every patient encounter.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Marty Case**

Financial Aid Director for 35 years

### What is your favorite part of the job?

My favorite part of the job is seeing students make it to graduation and knowing I had a hand in helping them be successful and realizing their dreams. It is very satisfying to see the graduates walk across the stage, knowing they have earned their diplomas with a lot of hard work, and we have all contributed in some way to their success.

### What led you to this position at St. Elizabeth School of Nursing?

When I got married, my spouse was working in West Lafayette, and I was working at a bank in Peru, Indiana. We lived between both cities and commuted in opposite directions every day. It became clear that one of us had to make a move. As a Purdue grad, I was very familiar with the Lafayette area and began looking. One of the departments I oversaw at the bank was Student Loans, so the position at St. Elizabeth seemed like a good fit. I was already familiar with that part of student financial aid, so I thought I could learn the rest of the processes and make the transition. It's a bonus that the School of Nursing is part of a mission-driven organization that has many of the same values that I believe I have.

### What advice do you have for incoming nursing students?

Read your emails. Please read your emails ... and check your mailboxes regularly. The school's official means of communication with students is their school email, and many seem to choose to ignore it, which means they are missing out on opportunities. Be organized and vigilant. If we send you communication about scholarship opportunities, apply for them. Most applications take minimal time, and you just might be the person who gets selected to receive some free assistance.

### What makes you proud to be the Financial Aid Director for the School of Nursing? What moments stand out in your career?

During my years, I have had the opportunity to promote the School of Nursing through volunteer work I've done for our professional associations at the state and regional levels. I've had the opportunity to network with so many colleagues across the state and across the country, and it makes me feel good when one of them reaches out to me for help in wading through regulations that oversee the student financial aid industry. Whether it's being thanked by a student or their family at graduation, or receiving a special award at a state conference, there have been so many times that I have felt appreciated for my hard work and diligence. It's just a bonus that I got to work for a fantastic school and organization all these years.

### With retirement on the horizon, what are your plans for the future?

First, learn how to sleep and relax again. I have multiple home renovation projects on my to-do list and can't wait to get started on those. I thoroughly enjoy finding a deserted beach, reading a good book until I need to get up and take a walk ... I anticipate doing this a lot. I also enjoy cruises and will someday do that trans-Atlantic cruise that I've been planning in my head for years.

### Any words of wisdom for the incoming director?

Don't take things too seriously, do your job well, but have fun doing it. Student financial aid has a lot of regulations to follow and hoops to jump through, but you can do this. Take advantage of all the training available and network a lot. You'll find financial aid professionals are a fantastic group of helpful people who will go out of their way to help you be successful.



### MEET OUR NEW FINANCIAL AID DIRECTOR

Join us in welcoming Nathan Worster, our new Financial Aid Director at St. Elizabeth School of Nursing!

# THANK YOU TO OUR PRECEPTORS!

Your knowledge, time and compassion help shape the future of nursing. Thank you for serving as a preceptor and making a lasting impact on our students' education and confidence.

Kris Adams	24-1, 24-2, 24-3	Kathryn Liggett	24-1, 24-2, 24-3
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Hannah Bordner	24-3	Jo Ellen Miller	24-2
Deena Brummett	24-2, 24-3	Emma Olson	24-1
Kamrin Christopher	24-2	Sidney Roudebush	24-1
Sahara Deck	24-1	Jessica Rusk	24-1
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Eryn Harris	24-2	Chuck Walter	24-1
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Christine Kreighbaum	24-1	John Wendland	24-2
Joshua Kuiper	24-2	Eric Whetstone	24-2
Kaitlyn Lemming	24-2	Tyler Yeagy	24-2, 24-3

# TUITION FREEZE EXTENDED

2025–2026



For nearly a decade, students at St. Elizabeth School of Nursing have benefited from a remarkable tuition freeze, a commitment that began in 2017 and is set to continue through the 2025-2026 academic year. This long-standing decision underscores the school's dedication to accessible education, ensuring that aspiring nurses can pursue their dreams without the added burden of escalating costs. In a time of increasing financial pressure on students, St. Elizabeth's proactive approach to maintaining stable tuition fees allows its students to focus wholeheartedly on their studies and the rigorous demands of nursing education.

This financial stability is particularly significant given St. Elizabeth School of Nursing's strong emphasis on academic excellence and its vital role in preparing the next generation of highly skilled nurses. The healthcare landscape faces an ever-growing demand for qualified professionals,

and the school prides itself on equipping its graduates with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to meet these critical needs. By mitigating financial concerns, the tuition freeze directly supports the school's mission of fostering academic achievement and ensuring that its students are well-prepared to enter a challenging yet rewarding profession.

Further demonstrating its commitment to student success, St. Elizabeth School of Nursing boasts an impressive scholarship program. There are scholarships available for every student, with the institution proudly distributing over \$200,000 in scholarships annually. This robust financial aid, combined with the sustained tuition freeze, creates an environment where dedicated individuals can pursue a high-quality nursing education, ultimately contributing to the well-being of communities and strengthening the healthcare workforce.

# Class Notes

## LET US KNOW WHERE YOU'VE BEEN AND WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO

Do you have an accomplishment or milestone—personal or professional—that you want to share with your fellow St. Elizabeth School of Nursing alumni? Scan the QR code below or visit [bit.ly/steson-alumni](https://bit.ly/steson-alumni) to access our Class Notes submission form. Submissions will be featured in future issues of *The Lamp*.



### ALEXA LINDQUIST, CLASS OF 2021

After graduating from St. Elizabeth in 2021, I recently completed my master's and am proud to have stepped into a new role as a family nurse practitioner with Franciscan Physician Network in Lafayette, Indiana. I'm working in primary care—right where my heart has always been.

The journey here hasn't been linear, but every step brought me to this place. From bedside nursing to primary care, I've found fulfillment in building long-term relationships, educating and advocating for patients, and being part of their health journey in a personal way. I'm excited to guide patients toward healthier lifestyles and preventive care.

Primary care comes with challenges, but it's also where I feel most connected to the reason I became a nurse: to make a difference. I'm grateful to serve my community in a role that blends compassion, autonomy and purpose.

To anyone still finding their path—trust the process. You might end up exactly where you're meant to be.



### SHENITA PEETE, CLASS OF 2025

I passed my NCLEX exam on May 8 and am now a registered nurse in the Emergency Department at Franciscan Health East. Excited for this next chapter!



### SHANNON GLASSBURN, CLASS OF 2000

I'm a proud 2000 graduate of St. Elizabeth School of Nursing. I began working at St. Elizabeth in 1999 as a tech on PCU, then continued there after graduation. In 2002, I transferred to the ER and later spent four years in the outpatient GI lab before returning to the ER. In total, I served 23 years at Franciscan.

Now, I'm thrilled to share that my daughter will graduate from St. Elizabeth in 2025. She's already working at Franciscan on 3 West—and loving it. St. Elizabeth School of Nursing produces some of the most exceptional, well-trained nurses, and I'm proud to be part of its legacy.



### KRISTIE HANKINS, CLASS OF 1995

I'm a 1995 alumna of St. Elizabeth School of Nursing and a 2005 graduate of Vanderbilt University, where I earned my acute care nurse practitioner degree. I currently serve as a cardiology nurse practitioner with Baptist Health Medical Group.

I hold advanced certifications through the International Board of Heart Rhythm Examiners, including CCDS (Certified Cardiac Device Specialist) and CDRMS (Certified Device Remote Monitoring Specialist).

### BARBARA BEVIS, CLASS OF 1982

After graduating from St. Elizabeth, I completed my BSN at the University of Texas at Arlington, followed by my MSN and CRNA education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Becoming a CRNA has been the best career decision—truly the best job ever!



## SCAN HERE

To submit information by phone, please contact Julie Smith at (765) 423-6810.

## THANK YOU FOR COMING OUT & SUPPORTING ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL OF NURSING!

June 13, 2025 | St. Elizabeth School of Nursing/Franciscan Health Family & Friends Night With the Aviators



# Scholarship Recipients 2025

## Alexandra Laine Wickes Nursing Scholarship:

Stewart NaSheema and Zink Olivia

## Anita Reed Scholarship:

Noah Blankenship and Emma Lamb

## Betty Jean Lowery Endowed Nursing Scholarship:

Paige Barnes and Emily Cardoza

## Betty McCay Schober Memorial Scholarship:

Catherine Fassnacht and Madisyn Morgan

## Brenda Murraray Memorial Scholarship:

Bryanna Borden, Adalyn Buschman and Jenna Harlow

## Candy Genda Nursing Scholarship:

Abigail Colby

## Cheryl Ransom Nursing Scholarship:

Kayleigh Barnard and Maicee Sterrett

## Dianne Davis III and IV Scholarship:

Emerson Irmeger and Paige Barnes

## Gertrude Loeb Rosen Nursing Scholarship:

Annabelle Carter and Megha Martha Dhingra

## Holderly Nursing Scholarship:

Paige Baughman, Adalyn Buschman, Abigail Colby, Katherine Cosby, Marleigh Davis, Hannah Felkey, Isabella Gross, Cynthia Hudson, Elizabeth Kerr, William King, Timothy Lueking, Kiersten Manis, Maya McDonald, Abigail Pohlar, Jenna Minter, Brayli Ricks, Kaylyne Simmons, Madeline Staszewski, Katelynd Stevens, Kaitlyn Whitaker, Olivia Zink, LexiAnn Willoughby, Catie Musser and Caitlyn Hatke

## Hunter Ryan Memorial Scholarship:

Hannah Lumpkin

## Jacqueline Bahler Endowed Scholarship:

Noah Blankenship and Hannah Felkey

## James & JoAnn Vorst Nursing Scholarship:

Madeline Hays and Caitlin Meckley

## Juanita Burnett Marchand Endowed Nursing Scholarship:

Reghan Salmon, Maricruz Santos-Cervantes, Kennadi Stamper, Mackenzie Standerfer, Olivia Synesael and Kristen Vigar

## Karen Bahler Memorial Scholarship:

Rashana Kimmel and Brianna Parsons

## Mabel M. Knight Nursing Scholarship:

Micaela Benitez, Emma Besse, Megan Brigham, Sierra Davis, Jenna Duntz, Ranita Fower, Taylen Frazier, Halle Frodge, Jaiden Hardebeck, Malyah Hartwick, Macie Kellner, Elizabeth Kerr, Peri McClaskey, Jenna Minter, Echo Nunley, Hannah Obert, Frankie Pettingill, Madison Richardson, Heidi Schleman, Kaylyne Simmons, Katelynd Stevens, NaSheema Stewart, Kaitlyn Whitaker, Ella Kail and Emily Parker

## Marcia Lynn Wykoff Nursing Scholarship:

Jenna Duntz

## Nola Gentry Nursing Scholarship:

Hannah Obert

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Frankie Pettingill and Madison Richardson

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Ranita Fowler, Elizabeth Kerr, Madeline Staszewski and Olivia Zink

## St. Clare Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship:

Micaela Adams, Bailey Duncan, Paige Hudson, Kisha Hutson, Timothy Lueking, Peri McClaskey, Zuleyka Rivera and Abigail Shillings

## Stuart Nursing Scholarship:

Gwynneth Albertson, Aubrey Alexander, Jenniffer Aragon Avelar, Annabelle Carter, Bailey Duncan, Catherine Fassnacht, Jenna Harlow, Caitlyn Hatke, Addisyn Herndon, Mang Hoih, Hanna Jessie, Ella Kail, Anna King, Megha Martha Dhingra, Madisyn Morgan, Catie Musser, Emily Parker, Jonah Prochnau, Jack Reisman, Zuleyka Rivera, Caroline Wilcox and LexiAnn Willoughby

## Susan Castor Steson Nursing Scholarship:

Hayley Dyson, Kylie Hammons and Kaylee Rosenbarger

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Stephanie Garcia, Emma Nielsen, Kloe Rothenberger, Maricruz Santos-Cervantes and Tayler Summers

## William & Martha Fancher Nursing Scholarship:

Hayley Dyson, Kylie Hammons, Jaiden Hardebeck, Jenna Harlow, Caria Jones, Macie Kellner, Anna King, Timothy Lueking, Dulce Moreno, Emma Nielsen, Jack Reisman, Madison Richardson, Katelynd Stevens, Tayler Summers, Caroline Wilcox and Jonah Prochnau

## Wilson Family Nursing Scholarship:

Halle Frodge, Averi Loft, Emma Nash, Madeline Staszewski and Olivia Synesael

We are extremely grateful for the support from our alumni, faculty, families and friends.

All gifts made to St. Elizabeth School of Nursing allow us to continue Christ's healing ministry and make a lasting impact in the lives of our students.

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[StESoN.org/Donate](https://StESoN.org/Donate)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL OF NURSING**

# DAY OF GIVING

**November 19, 2025**

**Feast Day of St. Elizabeth of Hungary**

St. Elizabeth of Hungary devoted her life to serving the sick and poor, even building a hospital with her own resources. Today, her legacy lives on in the hands and hearts of our alumni and future nurses.

Join us in honoring her example and the work of our students and graduates by supporting St. Elizabeth School of Nursing.

**YOUR GIFT ON THE ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL OF NURSING DAY OF GIVING WILL HELP FUND:**

## **Student Scholarships**

Supporting the nurses of tomorrow

## **The General Fund**

Providing essential technology and materials for students and faculty

Help us continue Christ's healing ministry. Plan to show your support for St. Elizabeth School of Nursing on Nov. 19, 2025. If you feel inclined to do so, give today!



**SCAN HERE  
TO GIVE  
TODAY!**