



# ANEW

## Advanced Nursing Education Workforce Grant



Eleanor Mann School of Nursing (EMSON)

### The Essentials:

#### Where Are We and Where Are We Going?

In 2021, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing released *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education*.<sup>1</sup> Like most nursing colleges/schools around the country, the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing (EMSON) has decided to adopt the outlined essentials and move towards competency-based education (CBE). Continued on page 2

**Essentials**  
Redesigned to fit everyone

**Decatur Schools Sports Clinic & DNP students volunteer their skills!**

**GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT**  
Kimberly Williams

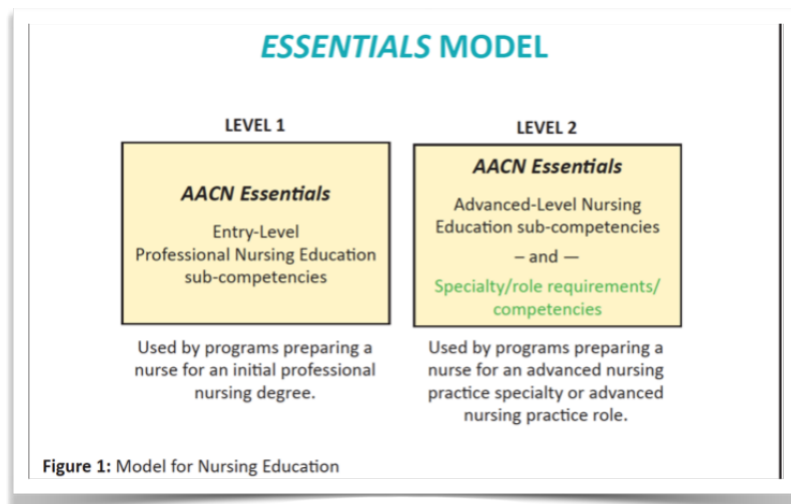
**SITE HIGHLIGHT**  
ACCESS Medical

**PRECEPTOR HIGHLIGHT**  
Alicia Gates, DNP, FNP

## The Essentials:

Continued from page 1

In Spring 2022, EMSON took the initial steps towards integrating and implementing the competencies and sub-competencies in both the undergraduate and graduate nursing education programs. These initial steps included mapping curriculum to the essentials to determine where our curriculum stands in order to establish what changes and steps, we need to make in order to get where we would like to go. The EMSON Academic Affairs Committee is spearheading this process, but all faculty were able to take part as they mapped their courses to the 2021 essentials. At the Spring 2022 full faculty meeting, a summary of the mapping process was outlined with plans to start curriculum revisions in Fall of 2022. Additionally, with the release of the 2022 NTF *Standards for Quality Nurse Practitioner Education 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*,<sup>2</sup> the DNP program will also implement key curriculum revisions based on the standards, which will include additional direct patient care clinical time and creating additional opportunities for students to demonstrate obtained clinical competency. With these new guiding documents comes exciting changes in nursing education, but also



presents with some exciting challenges to overcome. In order to aid in this process, EMSON is utilizing various resources and tools including joining the SEC curriculum team and integrating AACN modules and webinars for faculty development. The ANEW grant team will be aiding in the curriculum revisions next year by ensuring key content is woven into the DNP curriculum including topics related to professional identity, DEI, rural health, opioid use/misuse and telehealth.

## REFERENCES:

1. American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2021). The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education. Retrieved from <https://www.aacnnursing.org/AACN-Essentials>
2. National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education. (2022). Standards for Quality Nurse Practitioner Education 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Retrieved from [https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nonpf.org/resource/resmgr/2022/ntfs\\_/20220201\\_NTFS\\_draft.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nonpf.org/resource/resmgr/2022/ntfs_/20220201_NTFS_draft.pdf)



ANEW Student Hannah Vogel completing physical.

## Decatur Schools and Eleanor Mann School of Nursing Partnership

### Sports Clinic

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the ANEW Grant students, along with their FNP cohort members, and faculty, participated in a sports physical clinic for a local rural community. The Eleanor Mann School of Nursing DNP-FNP Program hosted Junior High School and Senior High School students from the Decatur School District where FNP students, senior RN students and faculty were able to perform pre-participation sports physicals. The students from this community often come from lower socioeconomic statuses, experience limited access to primary care services, and lack the financial means to complete the needed physical exams to participate in school sports.

**By obtaining these sports physicals, the Decatur students will now be able to participate in school sanctioned physical events for the 2022-2023 school year.**

The FNP students, along with supervising faculty, were able to conduct free sports physicals for these students, therefore overcoming the barriers to care. Additionally, senior BSN-RN students completing their community clinical rotation were able to participate in obtaining vital signs and providing some health education to the waiting students. This education included topics ranging from the risks of vaping to stress reduction and a healthy diet. The day was a success with over 85 physicals completed and health education provided. Many FNP and RN students voiced their satisfaction with the sports physical clinic and appreciated not only the clinical aspect of the day by practicing full physical exams with faculty mentorship, but also their ability to give back to a local community. By obtaining these sports physicals, the Decatur students will now be able to participate in school sanctioned physical events for the 2022-2023 school year. This will aid in the students' ability to partake in daily physical activity, which is key to long-term health outcomes.



ANEW Student Audrey Hunter completing physical.



## Alicia Gates, DNP, FNP

### Preceptor Highlight

Dr. Gates began her nursing career by obtaining her CNA license.

**Alicia Gates, DNP, FNP**, became a preceptor because she remembers the difficulty she had in finding preceptors when she was a student. She is also grateful for the excellent nurse practitioners who served as her preceptors and who wanted to see her succeed. Now, as a doctorally-prepared family nurse practitioner she is able to serve in the preceptor role, and enjoys providing students similar opportunities.

Dr. Gates practices at Access Medical Clinic in West Fork, AR. She enjoys getting to know students, learning about their nursing backgrounds, and discussing why they chose to continue their education. She also enjoys the opportunity to work through differential diagnoses and plans of care while providing guidance and sharing her expertise with students. She adds that she serves in the preceptor role because she sees it as a way to give back to her profession.

During the spring, 2022 semester she served as preceptor for ANEW grant student Kimberly Williams, who recently completed her second year in EMSON's DNP program. Kimberly says she's had a good experience working with Dr. Gates and the staff at Access Medical Clinic. According to Kimberly, working with Dr. Gates has helped to improve her diagnostic skills and as a result, she has gained a better understanding of the management of chronic conditions. She also shared that Dr. Gates is very insightful, she is easy to work with, is an excellent teacher, and has a great relationship with her patients.

Dr. Gates began her nursing career by obtaining her CNA license after deciding to pursue a nursing degree



Alicia Gates, DNP, FNP, EMSON preceptor.

her sophomore year in college. Throughout nursing school she worked in a long term care (LTC) facility, then continued in LTC for two years after obtaining her BSN from the University of Arkansas. Her career path then took her to inpatient care for six years where she worked on a medical surgical floor and a neuro-progressive unit. She then made the decision to pursue her DNP while continuing to work in the hospital and providing clinical instruction for first semester EMSON BSN students. She completed her DNP from the University of Arkansas in 2019.

When asked what advice she has for future preceptors, Dr. Gates stated "my advice for future preceptors is to

## Alicia Gates, DNP, FNP Preceptor Highlight

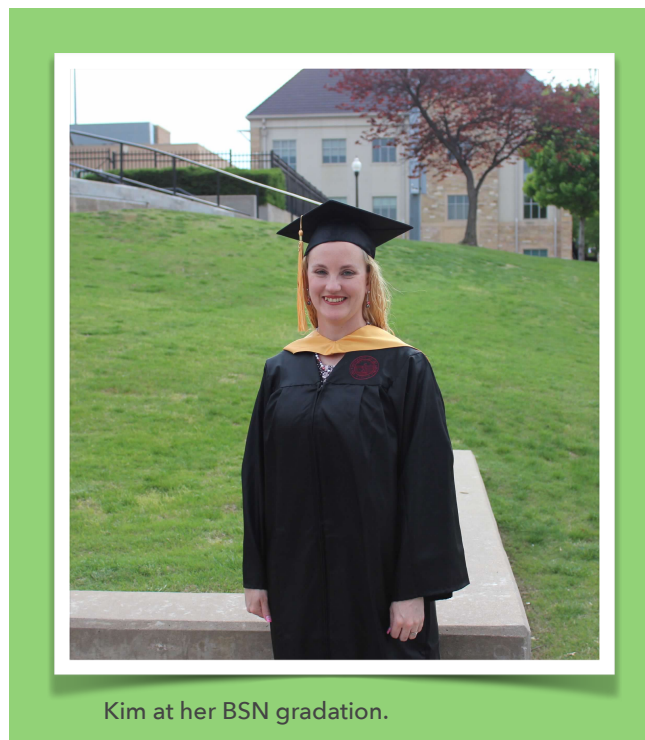
make sure you discuss what led you to the decisions for a particular patient and not just the plan of care.” We are grateful for the excellent guidance she is providing for our students!

**Access Medical Clinic** is a family practice clinic with several locations in Arkansas. The clinics provide an array of medical services for rural health communities including routine and school/camp physicals, preventive care, pediatric well visits, well woman care, DOT physicals and treatments of illnesses and injuries. The clinic also offered walk-in visits for urgent care as well as on-site laboratories and vaccinations. Kimberly believes she has had a great learning experience, and has enjoyed the variety of patients seen in the rural West Fork clinic. In addition to West Fork, the ANEW grant has also coordinated student placement with a site and preceptor in Garfield, AR. Access Medical Clinic is a new clinical site for ANEW grant students, and we are grateful for the time and knowledge provided to our students. We look forward to continuing to build this relationship.

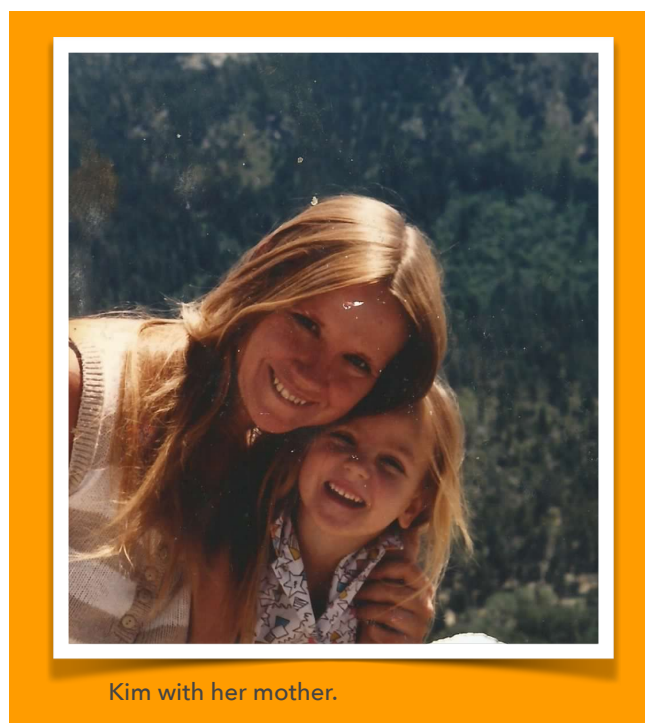
## Kim Williams Grantee Highlight

### When did you decide to become a nurse? an NP?

I decided I wanted to be a nurse when I was in high school. During my senior year I took a class that was taught by a flight nurse. My experiences in her class gave me the desire to be a nurse. I took the long route by working as a CNA, then a LPN, then RN-BSN. As a CNA I worked in long term care for a short time, after which I took a break from the health care field to reevaluate my desire to be a nurse.



Kim at her BSN gradation.



Kim with her mother.

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## Kim Williams Grantee Highlight, continued from pg 5

During this time, I worked in the construction industry. The 2008 crash of the real estate market caused the company I worked for to go out of business. This allowed me to complete a LPN program. After working for a few years as a LPN I applied and was accepted to the BSN bridge at OU in Tulsa. I worked on my BSN part time while working full time in a family practice clinic. After completing my BSN in 2018 I took a break from school. Working in family practice made me realize I wanted to be a nurse practitioner. I genuinely believe that my experiences working in every nursing role have provided me with a better understanding and appreciation for what every team member does.

### **What is your most memorable experience in graduate school?**

My most memorable experiences so far have been when I have had the ability to participate in workshops with other students to practice hands on skills such as suturing.

### **How did the pandemic affect your learning, your work, and your life?**

Since the DNP program is online the pandemic did not have much affect on my learning.

The pandemic had a significant impact on my work as it did everyone in healthcare. From having to wear masks all day and having to conserve PPE by reusing things that had been considered one time use supplies, having more patients that were more seriously ill, having worsening patient ratios due to staff illness, quarantine, or individuals leaving healthcare because of the situation. The pandemic affected my family/home life in many ways.



Kim at her son's high school graduation. Also present is her daughter and husband.

My son's job closed for 8 weeks, and his college courses were shifted to online, which was difficult for him. My daughter's middle school closed and switched to distance learning. Staying home for weeks at a time without going out was difficult for her.

### **Do you have future practice plans?**

I plan to work in a family practice clinic, I don't have a particular clinic in mind yet.

### **When do you plan to sit for certification?**

I will graduate in May of 2024; I plan to sit for certification that summer.

### **What advice would you give to new DNP students?**

Maintaining work-life balance is vital. It's easy to get overwhelmed between school, family life, and work. Your physical and mental health is important. Plan strategies to help you manage stress and make sure you take time for self-care on a regular basis.



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For more information about the ANEW grant, visit <https://nursing.uark.edu/dnp/aneu-grant.php>

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