

ANEW NEWSLETTER

Special Edition: The ANEW Grant in Review

The Eleanor Mann School of Nursing was first awarded the ANEW grant in 2017, after having received the Advanced Nursing Education (ANE) grant from 2015-2017. June 30 marks the end of the 2019-2023 ANEW project, and as we near the end of the grant cycle, we want to highlight progress made toward meeting the grant objectives. The following is a summary of this activity as it relates to each objective.

Objective 1) Enhance a mutually beneficial academic-practice partnership with clinic sites serving rural and underserved Arkansans.

- The ANEW grant team has developed strong academic-practice partnerships with two healthcare systems that provide care to rural and underserved Arkansans. The partnerships with these two systems (Community Clinic of NW Arkansas and ARcare) have allowed the systems and faculty to identify nontraditional clinical experiences that have provided valuable learning opportunities for our students. Clinical placement processes have been streamlined making it easier to place students in needed clinical sites. Graduate faculty have been involved in clinical research projects with systems. DNP students are completing projects that have been identified by one or our partners to improve patient outcomes within the system. In addition, providers from the FQHCs have been guest lecturers at clinical workshops for the students.



Objective 2) Recruit, train, develop, support, and evaluate preceptors as program partners.

- The development of clinical partnerships helped to create a process whereby clinical experiences are selected, and preceptors vetted and supported on a more systematic and consistent basis. The goal was for students, faculty, preceptors, and clinical agency personnel to benefit from early planning and ongoing communication resulting from this process. The ANEW team met with clinical partners to identify how EMSON could provide ongoing support for preceptors. Through these discussions, preceptor development modules were created and made available to all preceptors through a web-based portal. In addition, the Program Quality Manager and the Preceptor Liaison have met with each preceptor both prior to and during the clinical experience to review expectations and progress, and to identify any issues that need to be addressed. We have found this process to provide enhanced communication with preceptors and higher satisfaction among students. (Cont. on pg. 2)



**EMSON Preceptors:
Shaping Future Providers**



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

College of Education & Health Professions
Eleanor Mann School of Nursing



In Review (cont.)

Objective 3) Provide FNP students longitudinal immersion clinical training experiences in rural community-based settings located in rural and/or underserved communities serving citizens and Veterans of Arkansas.

- During the past four years, 21 students have participated in the ANEW grant. One key task for this objective was to provide students with funds to assist in tuition and living expenses to allow students to focus more time on their education and eliminate the need to work full time. The grant has provided students with over \$700,000 to help pay tuition, university fees, books, and living expenses while working toward their doctorate that will allow them to be family nurse practitioners.

	Number of Students	Amount Provided to Students
Year 1	14	\$192,497
Year 2	13	\$169,613
Year 3	10	\$193,981
Year 4	8	\$178,537

Objective 4) Implement strategies to connect program graduates to existing resources to assist with primary care employment in rural and/or underserved populations in and around Arkansas.

- Students were placed in longitudinal clinical experiences at a rural and/or underserved clinic site for at least 2 full semesters of clinical experiences. Four service-learning courses were created and taught during the grant period. Four workshops were developed and implemented, focusing on increasing student confidence, clinical skills and techniques, procedures, and understanding of the social determinants of health.

Objective 5) Collaborate with community-based setting and community to develop strategies to combat opioid crisis.

- The grant team has reached out to a variety of different communities to become involved. One DNP student completed her project focusing on implementing the CDC guidelines for opioid prescribing practices. The clinic site was excited about the project, but the grant team was unable to collect follow-up data on project sustainability. The grant team reached out to fire and police officials, school principals, superintendents, coaches, teachers, pharmacies, and health coalitions for potential collaboration ideas. Although we have been unsuccessful in securing a collaboration, we have made connections that we hope to continue to develop.

Objective 6) Collaborate regularly with all levels of grant partners and participants to maintain ongoing communication and information exchange.

- The ANEW grant update is a standing agenda item on the EMSON Graduate Faculty monthly meeting. The grant team meets at least once a semester with main academic-clinical partners and other clinical partners when possible. Members of the grant team also participate in the Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) Rural Health and Community Based Learning Teams. Other collaborations have been with Kansas University Professional Identity groups, presentations at one national and one international conference, as well as other HRSA ANEW grantees.



Eleanor Mann School of Nursing



Student Impact

Throughout this ANEW grant cycle, our grant team has collected feedback from grant students, both current and graduated, regarding how the grant has been impactful to them. Several themes have been consistently identified as being positively impactful among grantees.

Monetary When discussing positive impacts from the grant, both current students and graduates highlight monetary assistance as assisting with balancing school and work, as well as ability to decrease student loans.

“The grant allowed me to have less financial strain as I completed my degree.”

“Huge help with finding preceptors, it is really appreciated!”

Preceptor Placement Another positive impact consistently mentioned by the students and graduates was the assistance with preceptor placement. This process can be time consuming, adding additional stress to the student, and many noted the decrease in stress related to obtaining preceptors. Throughout the course of the grant, over 30 preceptor placements were facilitated.

Clinical Experiences

ANEW grant students experienced longitudinal, immersive clinical experiences in rural and/or underserved sites throughout Arkansas, and students found great value through these experiences.

“[I] went in with one idea and walked out with another after [my] experience the community.”

“Serving within this population has brought me tremendous professional and personal fulfillment unlike any other patient settings where I have conducted my clinical rotations.”

Completing clinical hours in underserved and/or rural populations brought eye-opening experiences and confirmation to serve in these populations.

Future Role Students accepted into the ANEW grant have a desire to practice in rural or underserved communities in Arkansas. During the 2019-2023 grant period, thirteen ANEW grant students graduated from EMSON with their DNP-FNP. Of these **13 students, ten have gone on to practice in underserved or rural settings throughout Arkansas.** Several graduates noted the positive impact of the grant on their future to practice in these settings.

Mentorship and Connectedness One avenue of data collection was focused group student discussions held at the end of every semester facilitated by the Community Preceptor Liaison and Project Quality Manager. These discussions provided additional opportunities for conversations between students and grant team members, as well as created a platform to promote mentorship and student connectedness and community. Many students mentioned how helpful the group discussions were and appreciated how supportive and encouraging their peers had been.

“I am extremely grateful for the experience I had with the grant and loved learning what I wanted my future APRN career to look like along the way.”



Experiential Clinical Learning | Our House & Canvas Community

During the Fall 2022 semester, ANEW Grant students had the opportunity to travel to Little Rock to participate in a clinical experience at two ARcare clinics housed within Our House and Canvas Community Church. These clinics provide primary care services to individuals experiencing housing insecurity. This clinical opportunity provided students with real life experience of the health and medical needs of individuals experiencing health inequity and factors related to social determinants of health that they had previously only learned about in didactic course work and workshops.



Students, along with grant faculty, traveled to Little Rock for a two-day clinical experience to learn more about the care provided to individuals experiencing multiple challenges, including economic instability, housing and nutritional insecurity, and barriers to healthcare access. Students started the clinical experience at Canvas Community Church, where ARcare provides primary care services via telehealth to individuals facing housing insecurity. This clinic has an in-house nurse who connects with a nurse practitioner via telehealth to meet the medical needs of these individuals. The ANEW grant students were able to see how a lack of financial resources, secure housing, and consistent nutrition impacts health conditions and their outcomes. Students were also able to witness how a medical visit with a history, physical exam, diagnosis and treatment can be conducted and facilitated via telehealth.

On the second day of this experience, students participated in the telehealth clinic at Our House. Our House provides housing for homeless and near homeless individuals and families, career support and guidance, early child development, and after school programs. Here, students again were able to participate in the telehealth visits conducted within the ARcare clinic on site, as well as learn about the services provided by the social workers and aid residents in the career center.

This was an extremely valuable experience for the ANEW grant students as they were truly able to connect and gain firsthand exposure to individuals experiencing health inequities and how they can assess and address inequities in their future practice. Multiple students mentioned how eye opening the experience was, suggesting it enhanced their clinical and didactic experience.



ANEW Developed and Sponsored Courses: Summary Wrap-up

Through the ANEW grant, five graduate level courses were developed and taught during the grant period. These courses provided interested DNP and BSN students an opportunity to augment their educational studies based on the specialty topics presented in the courses. Additionally, three courses were taught as a service-learning course, which offered students the opportunity to connect and serve their community while completing their course work. The courses were as follows:

Emergency Preparedness in Rural United States:

Provides content to prepare students for the role of nurse practitioner in rural clinical settings during times when National Incident Management Systems are necessary to manage national disasters, tragedies, or contagion in rural areas of the US.

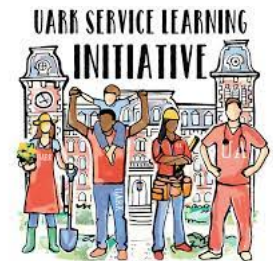
Rural Primary Care in Arkansas (service-learning course):

Provides additional knowledge and exposure to healthcare topics and diseases seen in rural primary care in Arkansas.

Opioid Use in Rural Arkansas (service-learning course):

Provides knowledge, exposure to risk factors, treatment strategies for opioid abuse and misuse, policies and regulations related to prescribing opioids, and gaps in community responses addressing this epidemic in rural primary care in Arkansas.

Advanced Practice Registered Nursing (APRN) Residency (service-learning course) Provides students skills to identify potential rural and underserved employment environments, prepare for interviews, and complete pre-employment documents necessary to evolve from graduate DNP students to fully employable, practice-ready APRNs. (Cont. on pg. 5)



(Courses cont.) Telehealth:

Provides students the knowledge related to the basic skills of telehealth etiquette, effective patient encounters and virtual examination techniques. To prepare them to conduct virtual visits in the future.



Although these courses were available to ANEW and non-ANEW students, all ANEW grant students were required to take Rural Primary Care and Opioid Use, preparing them to provide primary care and opioid use treatment services in rural communities. Through these courses students served their community by providing health education, writing policy op-eds, assessing their community's resources response to the opioid epidemic, and providing all students with medication assisted treatment (MAT) training.

ANEW Workshops

The ANEW grant sought to enhance EMSON's clinical partnerships and to support DNP-FNP students and preceptors. To this end, the team developed four one-day, on-campus workshops designed to strengthen students' skill and confidence prior to each specialty clinical experience. The workshops provided opportunity to reinforce prior learning and provided hands-on skill practice in addition to introducing new content. Workshop content was developed based upon feedback from clinical partners, preceptors, students, and faculty. Students also learned strategies for working with their preceptor through preparation, organizing their thinking, asking good questions, and prioritizing their learning objectives. Students were then able to "hit the ground running," maximizing the time spent with preceptors, who then have more time to process pertinent information with students.

Various skills addressed in the workshops included suturing, incision and drainage, toenail removal, foreign body extraction, assessing common skin conditions, and billing/coding. Students also worked through case studies addressing common issues encountered in pediatric and primary care settings.



In addition, guest speakers were invited to discuss topics specific to their specialty or interests such as:

Communicating with preceptors using the SNAPPS Model
~Seeking out and making the most out of clinical opportunities~
Handling difficult situations with patients~ Things preceptors wish a student knew prior to entering a pediatric rotation~ Words of advice for a student when entering a pediatric office~ Recognizing developmental delays~ Breastfeeding~ Autism~ Women's health~ Childhood nutrition and obesity prevention

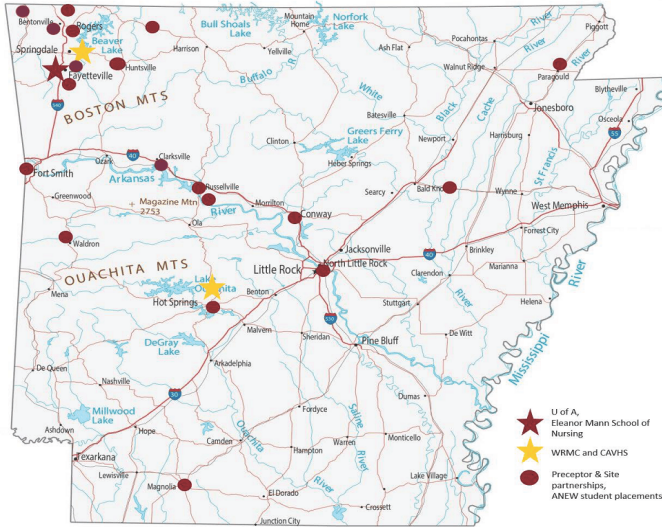
For the workshops conducted in January, 2023, 89% of the participants (n=9) reported an increased level of confidence in entering their next clinical course, 100% reported a high level of satisfaction with the workshops, and 89% stated they believed their participation in the workshops was time well spent. The team wishes to extend our thanks and appreciation to the nurse practitioners who assisted with the workshops by providing their expertise:

- Mandi Williams, MSN, PNP-C, PMHNP
- Kayla Sutton, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
- Scarlet Travis, CPNP-PC
- Megan Owen, CPNP-PC
- EMSON faculty members Dr. Hope Ballentine, Dr. Michele Kilmer, Dr. Marilou Shreve, Dr. Allison Scott, and Dr. Callie Bradley



THANK YOU!

The ANEW team would like to express our appreciation for our community partners in Arkansas that have provided learning experiences for our students throughout the grant period. This map identifies clinical learning locations; specific clinical sites are identified in the accompanying list.



- Augusta
 - ARcare Augusta Medical
- Bentonville
 - ARcare Bentonville
 - Ozark Dermatology
- Clarksville
 - Clarksville Family Medical Center
- Conway
 - Conway Regional Medical Center
- Dardanelle
 - Kirkland Family Medical Center
- Eureka Springs
 - Washington Regional Medical System
- Farmington
 - ARcare Farmington Medical
- Fayetteville
 - Community Clinic
 - MANA Fayetteville Diagnostic Clinic
 - Northwest Arkansas Pediatric Clinic
 - Washington Regional Medical System
 - Ozark Urology
- Garfield
 - Access Medical Clinic

- Gravette
 - Ozark Community Hospital
- Fort Smith
 - Premier Pediatrics
 - Good Samaritan Clinic
 - Mercy Clinic Primary Care
- Huntsville
 - Boston Mountain Rural Health Center
- Hot Springs
 - Central Arkansas Veterans HC System
- Lincoln
 - West Washington County Clinic
- Little Rock
 - Arkansas Primary Care Clinic
 - University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- Magnolia
 - Magnolia Family Medical Clinic
- Paragould
 - Paragould Family Clinic
- Pea Ridge
 - Mercy Clinic Primary Care
- Rogers
 - Community Clinic
 - Harvey Pediatrics
 - MANA Northwest Arkansas Pediatric Clinic
 - Mercy Family Medicine and Obstetrics
- Russellville
 - Millard Henry Clinic
- Siloam Springs
 - Community Clinic
- Springdale
 - ARcare
 - Community Clinic
 - Creekside Clinic for Women
 - Northwest Medical Plaza Eastside
- Waldron
 - Mercy Clinic Primary Care
- West Fork
 - Access Medical Clinic



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For more information about the ANEW grant, visit <https://nursing.uark.edu/dnp/aneu-grant.php> HRSA AT94HP30899
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