

ANEW GRANT NEWSLETTER

2023-2024 Year in Review

ANEW-RENEW OVERVIEW

We are excited to share with you some of the accomplishments that have occurred in the 2023-2024 academic year. We were honored to be awarded a continuation of the Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) Grant (T94HP30899-07-00), funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The ANEW grant has a yearly conditional renewal from July 2023 to June 2027.

The project goal is to improve the health of rural and underserved Arkansans by ensuring a sufficient number of highly educated, culturally competent, and clinically skilled Family Nurse Practitioners (FNPs) are available to practice to the fullest potential to transform the nation's evolving healthcare. The purpose of the ANEW Grant is to Reinforce, Educate, Network, Energize and Win (ANEW-RENEW) infrastructure support to expand well-established experiential training partnerships between the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing in Fayetteville,

Arkansas (EMSON), Community Clinics of Northwest Arkansas and ARcare for the explicit purpose of enhancing nursing education and practice. Ultimately, this will increase the number of graduate nursing students educated at the doctoral level in primary care settings to address and manage social determinants of health thus improving health equity and literacy for Arkansans in rural and underserved areas throughout Arkansas.



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A NON-TRADITIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

With the renewal of the ANEW grant, the grant team was excited to continue to collaborate with one of our academic practice partners, ARcare, to provide impactful learning opportunities to the grant students. Last fall Dr. Marilou Shreve, ANEW grant PD, traveled to Little Rock along with Dr. Lori Murray, DNP Assistant Professor and DNP coordinator, and Dr. Carmel Kruse, Clinical Assistant Professor. The focus of the trip was for students to experience how social, economic, cultural, and environmental factors impact the health of various populations served by the ARcare clinics housed within Our House Shelter and Canvas Community Church. These clinics provide primary care services to individuals experiencing housing insecurity. This clinical opportunity provided students real life experience addressing 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.

The clinic staff, Whitney Brown, LPN, and Katie Craig, MA, along with a provider via Telehealth, have welcomed our students with open arms, as they model open, accepting and encouraging care to the clients they serve. Students have been positive in their response to the experience. Tim Kimball, a third-year DNP-FNP student commented,

"I found the experience in Little Rock very rewarding as it exposed me to a population that I had no experience with. All of the patients were grateful and open with us. It made me consider things that never crossed my mind for those of us with access to basic needs such as food and shelter. For example, we treated many diabetics with uncontrolled blood sugars, as their meals were dependent upon where they could get a meal. The meals primarily served at shelters are usually processed and high in sugar. We also had to carefully consider the location of the pharmacy as some patients migrated to evade trespassing. The experience really opened my eyes and helped me think, as a provider, how social determinants of health really do play a part in our treatment plans." He added "The staff in Little Rock were great to work with and I fell in love with the patients we saw."

Our partnership with ARcare continues to thrive. This year, in addition to the clinics in Little Rock, we have had students in ARcare clinics in Cabot West, Lonoke, and Maumelle. Past ARcare clinics providing experience for students include Augusta, Bentonville, Farmington, and Springdale. Lauren Fields, ARcare Chief Nursing Officer, is enthusiastic about the ANEW grant's partnership with ARcare, stating,



Katie Craig, MA (L) and Whitney Brown, LPN (R)



Tim Kimball, DNP-FNP Student

"We have hosted DNP students in our clinics for several years and see the benefits of our partnership. We want students (and the larger community) to know about ARcare – who we are, what we believe, and what we do, so we want to have students with us as often as possible. This is a win-win for all of us."

Preceptor Highlight: Julie Smith

Julie Smith, APRN enjoys teaching, and her experience precepting EMSON DNP-FNP student Allison Davis is a great example. Julie practices at Community Clinic, Springdale, and recently served as preceptor for Allison (Ally) Davis, Eleanor Mann School of Nursing (EMSON) DNP-FNP student and ANEW grant participant. Julie described her experience precepting Ally as *“one of the best I’ve had.”* She further explained *“It reminded me why I do it. I love to impart my knowledge and experience to students. It has been several years, but I remember being in their shoes.”* She praised Ally, commenting that she *“was very prepared for clinic each and every day. After the first few days with me she was off and running on her own. She was seeing the patients, getting the history, doing the exam, and creating the plan. I know it was a great experience for her.”* This development of independence is a critical aspect of our students' work with preceptors as students assimilate the professional role of advanced practice.

Julie further stated *“at Community Clinic we have a very unique population. We joke that they always teach us that if you hear hoof beats it is probably a horse and not a zebra. We see a lot of zebras. That makes for interesting clinic days and great experiences for students.”* Ally offered enthusiastic praise for her experience at Community Clinic this spring, stating *“Julie is a wonderful instructor who allowed me to grow my skills set and provided an example of exemplary patient care. I enjoyed learning from her and working side by side with our patients. A good preceptor is priceless and I’m thankful I was paired with Julie and given such a great opportunity to work with her!”*

Julie received her undergraduate education from EMSON, graduating with her B.S.N. in 2005. She later completed her MSN from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and is certified as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care. With experience working with several different populations of pediatric patients, Julie began her current role providing pediatric wellness and acute care at Community Clinic in 2022. In addition to clinical practice, she has also served as an adjunct clinical instructor for EMSON undergraduate students. The ANEW team and the faculty at EMSON are thankful for the expertise that Julie, and all our preceptors, provide and look forward to continuing to build meaningful relationships.



“It reminded me why I do it. I love to impart my knowledge and experience to students. It has been several years, but I remember being in their shoes.”
Julie Smith, APRN

“A good preceptor is priceless and I’m thankful I was paired with Julie and given such a great opportunity to work with her!”
Ally Davis, DNP-FNP Student

Residency: Transition to Practice

This spring, graduating ANEW students completed a residency course, led by our PD Dr. Marilou Shreve, for the purpose of exploring issues related to role transition. Students had the opportunity to:

- analyze educational, regulatory, scope of practice, and billability aspects of different APRN specialties.
- consider legal-ethical issues of advanced practice.
- assimilate skills to identify potential rural and underserved employment environments.
- prepare for interviews and develop curriculum vitae.
- complete pre-employment documents necessary to evolve from graduate DNP students to fully employable, practice ready APRNs.

Course activities included reflection, discussions, and interview preparation. This course was offered in a hybrid format, with students completing online activities and meeting in person on campus for discussions once a month.

EMSON DNP-FNP ANEW GRANT CLASS of 2024

This May, five ANEW grant participants graduated with their DNP, specializing in primary care. As part of a discussion during this past spring's residency course, the graduating students commented on their experience as grant participants. All five indicated their desire to practice in a rural or underserved area, commenting on the value of this focus during their clinical experience. The students agreed that the grant's focus on providing in-person experiences encouraged a sense of community and support while meeting the challenges of a rigorous educational program.

We also want to recognize the ANEW grant students, Klara Hutchinson who won the DNP project of the year and Susanne Early who won the DNP student of the year!!!

We are proud of what the students have accomplished and look forward to their continued success as they pursue careers as Family Nurse Practitioners! Congratulations!

"The workshops and other on-campus activities offered by the grant have helped decrease the feeling of isolation that can happen with online courses." Hannah Lyons

"The in-person opportunities have been great. The grant provided a better way of connecting with faculty and other students, which is so important because online courses can be very isolating." Audrey Hunter

"I have appreciated the workshops, and the opportunity to focus on rural and underserved populations." Klara Hutchinson

"The grant's focus on rural and underserved populations, including the rural course, encouraged me to go out and learn more about the community, and helped me to understand my community better." Susanne Early



***L to R: Susanne Early, Klara Hutchinson, Kimberly Williams, Audrey Hunter, and Hannah Lyons.
EMSON DNP-FNP ANEW Class of 2024***

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to the sites that served as clinical partners for our ANEW students this year!

ARcare Cabot, Lonoke, Maumelle
Community Clinic, Rogers
Community Clinic, Springdale
Community Hospital Fairfax – Family Medicine Clinics, Rock Port, MO
Community Medical Center, Falls City, NE
Glenwood Family Medicine, Glenwood
Good Samaritan Clinic, Ft. Smith
Living Tree Pediatrics, Bentonville
Mercy Primary Care and Obstetrics, Rogers
Medical Clinic P.C., Hamburg, Iowa
Mena Regional Health System, Mena
Premier Pediatrics, Ft. Smith
Shenandoah Medical Center, Shenandoah, IA
Southeast Pediatrics, Cape Girardeau, MO
WMRS Primary Care Clinic, Fayetteville



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For more information about the ANEW grant, visit <https://nursing.uark.edu/dnp/anew-grant.php>
HRSA AT94HP30899 (Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) Grant)

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