

Nurses Notes

The Professional Nurses Association of Dutchess/Putnam, Inc.

2019

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to serve as the President of the Professional Nurses Association (PNA) of Dutchess and Putnam County. I am eager to continue the fine work of those that have held this position and to welcome newcomers to our organization. We have much to discuss.

Membership in a professional organization offers many benefits. Networking and collegial collaboration is central to our practice, and the workshops offered by the Professional Nurses Association support this principal. The Professional Nurses Association has planned several learning and networking opportunities for this upcoming calendar year and we hope for full participation and attendance.

This is a critical time in healthcare but especially for nurses in our region. Consolidation of health care organizations, reductions in state funding of Medicaid, and an aging population are just a few of the topics that touch our profession. The role of the PNA is to be a thought leader and to forge discussions through networking and collaboration opportunities. I encourage you to take advantage of what our organization offers by attending events and sharing the message with co-workers. I am excited to share this journey with you and look forward to seeing you at our next workshop in October. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

Michele

Dr. Michele Lopez
President



 Professional Nurses Association
of Dutchess/Putnam, Inc.
an affiliate of ANA-NY
Mentoring Scholarship Collegiality

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MISSION

To advocate for the advancement of Registered Professional Nurses by fostering collegial relationships, mentoring the next generation of nurses, supporting nurses in their quest for education and encouraging education/scholarship within the Dutchess/Putnam region.

We promote the standards of nursing practice, nursing education, and nursing services established by the American Nurses Association (ANA).

Join PNA and Register for events at
www.pnadutchessputnam.org
Contact us at our email address
pna.dutchess.putnam@gmail.com

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2019 Nurse Excellence Awards

Excellence in Education

Pamela Vail-Duda, RN, MS, has been a nurse educator in the nursing program at Dutchess Community College for over 30 years and was cited in the 2000 edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. Pam was actively involved in converting DCC's nursing lab to a simulation-based laboratory. She currently lectures and teaches nursing students in various clinical agencies in Dutchess and Ulster counties and has been the faculty advisor for the Nursing Club since 2012. Her diverse nursing practice background spans over 43 years in medical surgical, maternity, ambulatory care /triage, geriatrics, supervisory, nursing management/administration, diabetes education and staff education. Pam started nursing studies at Dutchess County BOCES to achieve her L.P.N.; received her A.A.S. from Dutchess Community College to prepare for her RN; received her BSN and MS degree as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Gerontology and Nursing Education from SUNY New Paltz; and has participated in Post-Master's studies and professional development activities. She is an active in the PNA, serving on its board and chairing its scholarship committee.



Pamela Vail-Duda, center, with PNA's Michele Lopez and DCC's Nancy Moskowitz

Excellence in Administration

Joyce Maranga, RN, BSN has been a Supervising Public Health Nurse in the Department of Behavioral & Community Health for the past 4 years. As the Dutchess County Immunization Coordinator, Joyce takes the lead on outbreak response, especially one that requires medical countermeasures to be dispensed. She also leads the annual full-scale medical countermeasure exercise and real-world response vaccination clinics. She conducts case investigations, control for vaccine preventable disease, and supervises of three RNs and one administrative staff. The immunization grant program requires a high level of administrative adeptness to ensure the ever-growing myriad of deliverables are met, with attention to detail and time management to meet objectives and reporting deadlines, continually modify the grant work plan as the grantor requires, and actively participate in developing the new initiatives such as a regional immunization coalition. In partnership with Dutchess County BOCES, Joyce initiated and leads a quarterly meeting for all Dutchess County school nurses to provide education and support with expert presenters in topics that directly impact their work and students.



Joyce Maranga, far right, with PNA's Michele Lopez and Debbie Williams

Excellence in Clinical Practice

Donna Charitable, RN, CMS graduated from Orange Community College in 2009 and within months, she accepted a position, as a staff nurse, at Orange Regional Medical Center. Because of her diligence, dependability and dedication to positive patient outcomes, she quickly advanced to the charge RN on 4 North, a fast-paced medical surgical unit. Donna is compassionate and caring for her patients and peers. She is part of the team that provides training and mentoring of all the new RN's on her unit. She has an easy approachable manner that allows both new and experienced RNs to depend on her as a resource. Donna motivates the entire team to improve and develop new skills and continuing education. She volunteers for Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) which uses a variety of best practices in prevention and management of pain, pressure ulcers, delirium, urinary incontinence and fall prevention for the hospital's geriatric patients. Donna has been nominated for several "good catch" awards on 4 North over the last two years and has also been the recipient of the Daisy award for exceptional patient care and has obtained her Medical-Surgical Certification (CMSRN).



Donna Charitable, Center, with PNA's Michele Lopez and Michael Sanders

DCC Advances Nursing Opportunities

Dutchess Community College is offering new educational opportunities for nursing and healthcare students— an RN-BSN program in partnership with SUNY's Alfred State College; a community nursing opportunities in its preceptorship program; and a 150 hour C.N.A. program with day and evening classes at the Family Partnership Center in downtown Poughkeepsie and 60 hours of clinical placements at a local nursing home. The program, which costs \$1,595 prepares graduates to take the NYS Department of Health C.N.A. Certification Exam.



Philip Latimer, RN, 2019 DCC grad, Alfred State BSN student

The DCC/Alfred partnership allows Associate degree-prepared registered nurses to earn a bachelor's degree in Nursing locally. The BSN is open to DCC's nursing program graduates who are licensed nurses and other RNs seeking a four-year degree. Students in the program complete 64 upper level credits—some at the DCC campus, some online, and a professional capstone with a short residency at the Alfred State main campus. Philip Latimer, who graduated from DCC's nursing program in May 2019 and passed his NCLEX in August, is matriculated into the program and that starts on August 26. "The people at Alfred State have been accommodating," said Philip. "They have helped me a lot through the transfer process." He noted that Alfred State has a "safey net" for new nurses, allowing them to take and pass their NCLEX before the end of their first semester. The program take six semesters to complete and costs \$273/credit. Philip is excited about taking courses "which will help make me a better clinician."

A Poughkeepsie resident and father of a three year old girl, Philip was a C.N.A at Putnam Ridge throughout his Associate's Degree program, and was hired as first Graduate Nurse and now RN at Putnam Ridge. He brings to that new role increased experience from his DCC Preceptorship in Community Nursing at Hudson Valley Hospice.

The five week Preceptorship is the last clinical experience at DCC. Traditionally, placements are in hospitals—community nursing is a recent option. According to DCC Associate Professor of Nursing Barbara Kabbash, students from DCC also worked with surgical centers, home care agencies, Anderson Center for Autism, and Dutchess ARC. "It was a really positive experience," said Philip. "Not only was I able to apply my nursing abilities and expand them, it was a wonderful side of nursing." He worked in the home care setting with preceptor Mary Koniz Arnold RN, BSN, CHPN, and honed skills in head to toe assessment, wound care, foley management, and post mortem care. He also shadowed the agency's hospital team, observing Hospice care in ICU and the ED.

One of the most striking things for Philip was seeing people from vastly different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds and the disparities in different parts of the community. "It was surreal going from one extreme to another. It also helped me solidify my theory. I remember walking into one house, there was a gentleman in respiratory distress, and the vigorous nursing interventions that were able to bring him back so he could have a conversation with his wife. That was cool to see that—the power of that—and how happy he became."

Barbara Kabbash is looking for additional community sites to expand the program. She encourages community nurses and agencies to contact her at 845-431-8581 or email her a kabbash@sunydutchess.edu.

PNA 2018-2019 In Review

September 27, 2018: **Active Shooter in the Healthcare Setting** and **Stop the Bleed**

Matthew Heneka, RN and Catherine Tegtmeier, RN, MPH, AEM. Longobardi's Restaurant, Wappingers falls NY.

November 14, 2018: **Ending the Silence**

Jo Ann Brown, program Coordinator from the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Coppola's Restaurant, Hyde Park, NY.

January 31, 2019: **Sepsis is not Only in Hospitals**

Cynthia Paradiso ,MA , RN-BC CNE. Longobardi's Restaurant, Wappingers Falls, NY.

March 27, 2019: **Overview of Public Health Preparedness**

Catherine Tegtmeier RN,MPH,AEM, Director of Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health. The Italian Center, Poughkeepsie, NY.

May 1, 2019: **Annual Nurse Excellence Awards**, Election of Board and Officers, and Silent Auction

Coppola's Restaurant, Hyde Park, NY.

The PNA of Dutchess/Putnam Membership 2018-2019

Christine Andrews
Mary Koniz Arnold
Mary Jane Begley
MaryAnne Belanger
Michelle Belanger
Nimesh Bhargava
Karen Blonder
Antonia Brewer
Patricia Burbridge
Linda O. Callis-Bennett
Stephanie Capichioni
Vincent Casa
Danielle Cebbron
Lisa Cerniglia
Anne Champlin
Monkia Chmielewski
Joan Cohen
Mary Cohen
Sydney Coleman
Teresa Costakis
Cathleen Davis
Lisa DeLuccia
Karen Desmond
Linda Devine
Suzanne Donnelly
Pamela Duda
Marijo Dulay
Joann Duquesnay
Alyssa Ekroth
Michelle Elsener
Lynn Estes
Robert Gantt
Clare Garvey
Sondra Giordano

Joy Godin
Ingeborg Grutzner
Linda Hacksteiner
Catherine Halwick
Janis Headlee
Matthew Heneka
Cheryl Hoffman
Kathleen Hollister
Tove Johnson
Barbara Kabbash
Ronald Karow
Karen Khaddabux
Pat Kickham
Suzanne Kinsella
Gilda Koroxenos
Valerie Kotzen
Jaclyn Kroell
Christine Kuehner
Donna Law
Susan Lizzo
Michele Lopez (Comolli)
Leah Macfarland
Stacey Martorano
Elyse Marlow
Doreen Mays
Diane McGregor
Allison Meck
Frances Mendes
Hilda Merolli
Carol Moran
Nancy Moskowitz
Suzanne Murphy
Hanada Nesheiwat
Anne O'Brien

Ryan O'Shea
Coreen Palmero
Cynthia Paradiso
James Pittman
Joanne Powers
Rosemary Ragonese
Steven Reuter
Sara Rosenberg
Cynthia Ruvolo
Michelle Ruvolo
Michael Sanders
Laura Sarnicola
Victoria Scanlon
Maryann Sharpe-Cassese
Amy Sherman
Deborah Siconolfi
Karen Sieverding
Caryn Solomon
Brigitte Stauder
Carol Stevens
Patricia Sutton
Catherine Tegtmeier
Christopher Torres
Frances Traver
Margie Travis-Dinkins
Christina Vaczi
Nancy Verdichizzi
Janice Viola
Lisa Walz
Diahann Weathers
Roseanne Weinstein
Wendy Westerman
Debbie Williams
Tara Zacharzuk-Marciano

Congrats 2019 Scholarship Winners



Brenna Corrigan is a 2019 graduate of Walter Panas High School and will be attending Western Connecticut State University.

Lisa DeLuccia, RN is a 2017 graduate of SUNY Dutchess and she is in the BSN program at SUNY Plattsburgh.



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