TEXAS TEAM

Advancing Health through Nursing

Initiative on the Future of Nursing

Regional Nurse Leaders

Linda Carpenter, PhD, RN, CNE, FAAN
Co-Leader, Central Texas Region

Dr. Carpenter is Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing and Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing. Dr. Carpenter earned a BSN from The University of New Mexico, a MNSc from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and a PhD in Higher Education Administration with a minor in Nursing from the University of Arizona. She has held teaching positions at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, the University of Arizona, and the University of Texas at Austin and earned a national certification as a Nurse Educator through the National League for Nursing. She has held many administrative positions including Coordinator of Academic Affairs at the College of Nursing at the University of Arizona, Director of the Blinn College Associate Degree in Nursing program, and Assistant Dean for Student and Clinical Affairs and Assistant Dean for Community Relations at the School of Nursing at The University of Texas at Austin as well as Division Chair for Family, Public Health and Nursing Administration. A major focus of her work at UT-Austin is serving the underserved population of children and families at the Children's Wellness Center, a nurse-managed school-based clinic founded with a partnership between the school district and the School of Nursing. She has developed work-study programs for nursing students and established a study abroad program for nursing students in Mexico. She has completed a study to assess the learning outcomes of the study abroad experience using concepts of cultural competence and a cultural awareness survey. Dr. Carpenter has been awarded two grants from the Texas Workforce Commission to create a certificate program to prepare practicing nurses for faculty positions, to ease the nursing faculty shortage. . She was selected to serve a three-year term on the Task Group on Innovations in Curriculum Design for the National League for Nursing. She has served as a moderator, an abstract reviewer, and has been on the planning committee for several NLN Education Summits. Dr. Carpenter has also been inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She currently teaches graduate courses to prepare nurses for faculty and nurse educator positions

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Jane McCurley, DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE
Co-Leader, Central Texas Region

Dr. McCurley is the Chief Nursing Officer for St. David's North Austin Medical Center in Austin Texas. She has been a CNO at two previous HCA facilities and served on several division and corporate quality and safety committees. Dr. McCurley is also active in professional organizations and currently serves on the Texas Organization of Nurse Executives Board as well as the Communication, and Membership Committee. She has served on the Membership and Political Action Committee at the national level with the American Organization of Nurse Executives. Dr. McCurley has spoken at several national conferences on leadership and cultural transformation for the patient experience.

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TEXAS TEAM

Regional Nurse Leaders Team

Linda Klotz, PhD, RN
Co-Leader, East Texas Region

Dr. Klotz has been a part of The University of Texas at Tyler since fall of 1982 when she was hired to help write the curriculum for a new baccalaureate program in nursing. As the program grew, she served as Undergraduate Coordinator for the baccalaureate program, then as Graduate Coordinator.for the Master's programs. Dr. Klotz was appointed dean of the College of Nursing in May 1994, and has held the deanship role for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences since its creation in 2001. In this role, she oversaw the development of two satellite campuses for nursing in Palestine and in Longview as well as the initiation of the MS-Nurse Practitioner degree and the doctor of philosophy degree in nursing. Her previous experience includes dual roles at the University of Arizona College of Nursing and the Arizona Health Sciences Center in Tucson, Arizona. Research interests, publications, national and international presentations reflect both her clinical and her academic passions. Clinical publications explore hope and hopelessness in families with terminal illness; and the importance of the significant other. Her commitment to career mobility and access to higher education is seen in the development, implementation and evaluation of collaborative graduate programs and the use of distance education strategies at multiple sites for the baccalaureate programs. Dr. Klotz holds a PhD in nursing from The University of Texas. Her Master of Science degree is from the University of Arizona with a specialty in oncology nursing and a functional role of adult health nurse practitioner. Her baccalaureate nursing degree is from The University of New Mexico. She is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing; the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) for the Texas Board of Nursing; Oncology Nursing Society; and Texas Nurses Association.

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Rob Rose, RN, MS, NEA-BC
Co-Leader, East Texas Region

Rob Rose is Senior Vice President Patient Care Services and System Chief Nursing Officer for Trinity Mother Frances Hospitals and Clinics a Top 100 integrated delivery system. As system CNO Rob holds responsibility for Nursing Practice over 6 hospitals and 35 ambulatory sites. During his tenure there he has lead Nursing's implementation of a system wide integrated electronic medical record, awarded ANCC Beacon award in the adult ICUs and implemented the UHC residency program for newly licensed nurse. He has been very active with the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) was past Board member (2009-2011) and currently serves on AONEs nomination committee. Rob currently chairs the Nursing/quality group of the Health Care coalition of Texas, a member-led organization representing 12 community-based hospitals and healthcare systems across Texas. Prior to joining TMFHS, Rob served in various nursing leadership positions in Connecticut and New York as well as serving on various AONE state chapter board of directors including past president of New York Organization of Nurse Executives North East Chapter. Rob is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

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TEXAS TEAM

Regional Nurse Leaders Team

Susan Ruppert, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, NP-C, FCCM, FAANP, FAAN

Gulf Coast Region

Dr. Susan Ruppert directs the Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (NP) Program at the University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston School of Nursing & maintains a faculty NP practice. She is a Fellow in the American College of Critical-Care Medicine & the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She has been Editor-in-Chief of The Internet Journal of Advanced Nursing Practice since 1997; receiving the Sigma Theta Tau Information Technology Award for Knowledge Advancement. She has been editor/contributor for a critical-care nursing textbook & serves as an editorial board member/reviewer & author for numerous acute & primary care journals. She has served as an expert reviewer for the only college-based nursing program in Oman. She has held numerous national leadership positions within professional organizations including Sigma Theta Tau International, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, & Society of Critical-Care Medicine. She chairs the ANCC expert panel for the Adult NP certification examination. She currently serves on the Board of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), the CCNE Accreditation Review Committee, & the NONPF Curricular Leadership Committee. She leads the Texas Team Gulf Coast Regional Leadership Team in implementing the Future of Nursing Campaign for Action.

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Julie Thomas, DNP, RN

North Region

Julie is the immediate past Director of Education and Practice at Baylor All Saints Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Julie received her MSN from UT-Arlington and her doctorate in Nursing Practice from Texas Christian University. Julie currently serves as the Co-Lead for the North Texas Region for Texas Team. Julie's passion is developing collaborative partnerships to drive innovation for delivery of safe patient care delivery and believes the recommendations from the IOM on the Future of Nursing are pivotal to improve patient care and the work environment for nursing.

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TEXAS TEAM

Regional Nurse Leaders Team

Marietta Branson, DHSc, MSN, RNC
Co-Leader, Panhandle Region

Dr. Branson is an assistant profession and associate department head for alternative programs at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas. Dr. Branson has served on several professional and community organizations. She is treasure of the Delta Delta Chapter Sigma Theta Tau and an active member on the regional chapter of TNA. She has been teaching at WTAMU for 16 years in various positions from instructor to interim department head. Before coming to WTAMU she was the CNO of a 40 bed rural hospital in Canyon, Texas before it closed. Her current position as alternative department head is the program administrator of the RN to BSN and RN to BSN/MSN program. Dr. Branson has been involved in the Texas Team efforts at the grass roots level for several years.

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Valerie Kiper, DNP, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
Co-Leader, Panhandle Region

Dr. Valerie Kiper is the Chief Nursing Officer for Northwest Texas Healthcare System in Amarillo, Texas. She serves a representative on the Texas Panhandle Coalition for Nursing. Valerie also serves as an advisory board member for West Texas A&M College of Nursing and Health Sciences. She has previously held the position of President of the TONE. Through her previous corporate role in quality and patient safety, Valerie has provided leadership in promoting and advancing the Future of Nursing work at the corporate level within Universal Health Services.

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Pam Bradshaw, RN, MSN/MBA, NEA-BC, CCRN
South Texas Region

Pam Bradshaw is the Chief Nursing Officer at CHRISTUS Spohn – South Hospital in Corpus Christi, TX. She assumed this role in Feb, 2013. Prior to moving to Corpus Christi, Pam served as the Vice President of Nursing and Clinical Services/Chief Nursing Officer at United Regional Health Care System in Wichita Falls, TX for over 10 years. Pam has been involved at both the state and national level for many years. She has served in various positions as part of the Texas Organization of Nurse Executives, including terms as the Treasurer and President and is currently serving as the Immediate Past President. At a national level, Pam has served on several AONE committees including Nominations, Education, and Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence (HPOE) and for AACN including Award Review and Continuing Education. Pam has presented at local, state, national and international conferences including What's Right in Health Care and Sigma Theta Tau International and published several articles.

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Pat Duran, DNP, RN, CENP
Upper Rio Grande Region

Patricia Duran has over 30 years of leadership experience in the acute care health care system. In those thirty years, Pat has a diverse amount of service line leadership experience in Case Management, Post Acute Management to include Rehabilitation services, Bariatric and Emergency Department services. In 2006, she became the Assistant Vice President of Patient Care Services at Providence Memorial Hospital and was named the first Chief Nursing Officer of the new tenet, Greenfill Hospital, in September of 2007. Pat earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and her Masters in Nursing Administration from the University of Texas at El Paso. She achieved her Doctor in Nursing Practice, Executive Leadership in May of 2012 from Texas Tech HSC, in Lubbock. Pat maintains her certification in Executive Nursing Practice from the American Organization of Nurse Executives. She represents the Central Region on the Tenet's Nurse Executive Council (NEC) and serves as the NEC member in the Tenet CNO Practice Council. Pat currently serves as the president of the El Paso chapter of the Texas Organization of Nurse Executive (TONE) and serves on the state level TONE Board. She is the acute care representative of the Upper Rio Grande Texas Team Coalition who is committed in actualizing the Institute of Medicine's 2010 Future of Nursing Report and serves as the region's Diversity Champion for the Robert Wood Johnson's Advancing education Progression in Nursing grant, established in 2012. She is an active member of the Texas Nurses Association, American Nurses Association as well as the America Organization of Nurse Executives. She played an active role in establishing the National Association of Hispanic Nurses in the El Paso community and serves on the District 29 Health Care Task force.

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Minerva Ojeda , MSN, RN
West Texas Region

Minerva Ojeda began her nursing career in 1998 and has served as a nurse educator for Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, Texas since 2008. She is currently the Magnet program coordinator and Bridge Nurse Residency Coordinator. Minerva earned her BSN from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, Texas in 1997 and her MSN from Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas in 2011. Minerva earned her Nursing Professional Development Board Certification in 2010. She has been actively engaged with the Texas Team since 2012 and served as the diversity champion for her region.

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