



Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

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Chairperson: Linda D. Taylor, PhD, RN, CNE

Linda D. Taylor, PhD, RN, CNE is an Associate Dean at Rasmussen University. Dr. Taylor has a background in oncology nursing and nursing education in the Midwest and Florida. As the Founding dean of nursing at the College of Menominee Nation in Keshena Wi, she was responsible for the development, implementation, and evaluation of a cultural affirmation model of nursing and providing nursing education to American Indian peoples. She has also had the opportunity to testify before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Following that appointment, she accepted a position in Miami, Florida, with a student demographic that was a Hispanic majority. Dr. Taylor's administrative academic focus has been on increasing access and increasing the number of underserved populations in the nursing profession.

Dr. Taylor earned a bachelor's and a bachelor's in nursing from Rockford College, a master's degree in nursing from Northern Illinois University and a Ph.D. in Nursing from University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. She was the youngest recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee in 2016. She has served in two fellowships, the Robert Woods Johnson Nurse Executive Fellows and Leadership America.

Dr. Taylor's experience in nursing education has led to a research focus in nursing workforce and education. Her work continues as nursing education is moving towards an evidence base for nursing education.

Vice- Chairperson Krista Jones, DNP, MSN, PHNA-BC, RN

Dr. Krista Jones is Director of the UIC College of Nursing's Urbana Regional Campus and a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health Nursing Science. Dr. Jones is a board certified Advanced Public Health Nurse. At UIC she has completed a Doctorate in Nursing Practice degree (2011), a Master's degree in Advanced Community Health Nursing (2007), a Post-Master's degree in Nursing Administration and Leadership (2009) and a Teaching Certificate in Nursing Education (2008). For the last 13 years, Dr. Jones has instructed undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students enrolled in Population Focused Nursing, EBP, Professionalism, and Leadership and Management courses.

Dr. Jones is the author of numerous publications. Her research interests include the development, implementation and evaluation of interventions to reduce risky behaviors among adolescents and young adults, public health nursing workforce issues and strategies to enhance the delivery of Nursing Education. She has served as Co-I of two National Libraries of Medicine funded grants to provide face to face and online instructional sessions to educate public health nurses on the acquisition, translation and application of evidence to inform their practice. A phase three grant where Dr. Jones will serve as PI was funded May 2020.

She is a member of the Illinois Public Health Nursing Leadership Academic Practice Workgroup. This team conducted a needs assessment of public health nurses and faculty across Illinois to determine priorities for partnership activities, and the challenges impacting PHN practice. These results were used to develop innovative strategies to address educational needs of new and existing PHN workforce. Additionally, these efforts have spawned three consecutive annual state-wide academic practice conferences and a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant that has funded more than 20

state-wide academic practice community service projects. Dr. Jones has presented her research at the Association of Community Health Nurse Educators, Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS), Sigma Theta Tau, and American Public Health Association (APHA) annual conferences.

Dr. Jones has held several leadership positions in local, regional and national nursing and public health organizations. These include current President of the Champaign County Board of Health, Section Councilor of the Public Health Nursing Section of the American Public Health Association, immediate past Secretary of the National Association of Community Health Nurse Educators, and recent chair of both the Adolescent Health and the Public Health nursing research sections of the Midwest Nursing Research Society. She also serves as member of the Carle Foundation Hospital's Nursing Research Advisory Board. Most recently, she was elected President-Elect of the Association of Community Health Nurse Educators.

Dr. Jones scholarship has been recognized locally by Carle Foundation Hospital, statewide by the Illinois Public Health Association, and regionally by two different Research Sections of the Midwest Nursing Research Society -- Public Health and Adolescent Health. Additionally, she has received the Daisy Award for teaching excellence, the Sigma Theta Tau Alpha Lambda Chapter Nursing Recognition Award, the Urbana Faculty Excellence Award and two Silver Circle Awards for teaching excellence at UIC. She is also a 2012 recipient of the Illinois Board of Higher Education Nursing Faculty Fellowship and 2020 AACN Elevating Leaders in Academic Nursing Program Fellow.

Lynda Bartlett, MS/MBA, RN

Lynda Bartlett is currently a Case Manager Lead at the University of Chicago Medicine. She also serves on the Institutional Review Board (IRB), Nursing Research Committee and the Nurse Residency Advisory Board at the University of Chicago. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN) from Saint Xavier University, Chicago, in 1986 and her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with a focus in community health and nursing administration from Saint Xavier University in 1998. Also from Saint Xavier University, she earned her Master of Business degree (MS/MBA).

Lynda started her career as a staff nurse on a step-down cardiac telemetry unit and then moved to research. For seventeen years, she managed the Clinical Research Center (CRC) at the University of Chicago Medicine where she managed clinical staff who provided nursing care at the bedside to adult and pediatric patients participating in physician initiated studies. This research encompassed both inpatient and outpatient areas of endocrinology, pulmonary, surgery, psychiatry, sleep medicine, rheumatology and transplant.

Lynda is also adjunct nursing faculty at Saint Xavier University where she acts as a clinical instructor for the Nursing Care of Adult Practicum and Leadership Capstone. She participates in simulation and provides hands-on experiences to nursing students whose patients have complex disease processes. Lynda has served on the adjunct faculty council and the alumni board at Saint Xavier University. She also has experience in the outpatient setting where she has acted as a triage nurse in a variety of specialty areas that include endocrinology, general internal medicine, nephrology, rheumatology, dermatology and dermatology surgery. Finally, Lynda is actively involved with Sigma Theta Tau International and now serves on the Fellow Committee Sigma Foundation for Nursing.

Laura W. Bernaix, Ph.D., R.N.

Dr. Bernaix is Dean, and Professor, in the School of Nursing at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE). She has practiced in Maternal-Newborn nursing for 40 years, with the last 31 years devoted to teaching in that same focus area. Prior to becoming Dean, her positions at SIUE include faculty, Department Chair of Primary Care and Health Systems Nursing, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, and Interim Dean. Dr. Bernaix received her Ph.D. in Nursing from Saint Louis University, a Master's in Parent-Child Nursing from University of Evansville in Evansville, Indiana, and her B.S. degree in Nursing from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Dr. Bernaix has received national, regional, and state grants for her research and teaching projects, and several awards for her work. Her program of research focuses on breastfeeding promotion, in which she has examined the nurse's role in support of the breastfeeding family in both the healthy term, and at risk, preterm infant populations. Dr. Bernaix's studies have included testing interventions designed to improve nurses' breastfeeding knowledge and support, as well as specific paternal support measures to promote positive breastfeeding outcomes in the NICU setting. Her authored research instruments are widely used by other researchers in similarly focused studies. Dr. Bernaix has presented her work at international and national conferences, and published in various professional journals.

Dr. Bernaix was a Co-PI for the NIH National Children's Study from 2009-2013. She is a Fellow in the AACN Leadership for Academic Nursing Program and served on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing from 2009 - 2016. She served on the Research Advisory Panel of the national Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nursing from 2007-2017. Dr. Bernaix serves as a reviewer for two maternal-newborn nursing journals. She is active in several organizations including the Illinois Association of Colleges of Nursing (IACN), American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), and the Missouri March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Executive Committee and Co-Chair. She is a member of AACN's University Government Relations Collaborative. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for Anderson Hospital in Maryville, IL.

Pam Bigler, DNP, RN, FACHE, NEA-BC

Pam started her leadership career over 35 years ago as a charge nurse in the Emergency Department. She has held leadership roles in Education, Critical care, and Informatics. Pam came to Carle in 1998 as Director of Critical Care Services. She was the CNO at Carle Hospitals and Clinics from 2006- 2019. Pam has led Carle hospital and the Carle Physician group to Magnet designation 3 times and achieved initial Pathway recognition for Hoopston. Today Pam is the SVP, Clinical Partnerships and Programs.

She graduated in 2017 from SIUE (Southern Illinois University) with DNP (Doctorate of Nursing Practice). She is a certified nurse executive advanced, board certified.

Amanda Buechel BSN, RN, CCRN

Buechel currently works in the Surgical Trauma Intensive Care Unit at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, IL. In 2019 she was named a top 5 finalist for the Illinois Nurses Foundation Nurse of the Year. Additionally, in 2017, she was named by the Illinois Nurses Foundation as one of its "40 under 40" Emerging Nurse Leaders and as a Pinnacle Nurse Leader for her outstanding contributions to nursing. She currently sits on the Illinois Nurses Foundation Board of Directors and in 2021 will start her position with the American Nurses Association as Director at Large Staff Nurse. Buechel leverages her passion for public policy and advocacy by speaking to nurses and nursing students throughout the state about the importance of nurses' participation in political advocacy.

Buechel has a long history of board service. She served as both first vice president and as elected executive consultant of the Student Nurses Association of Illinois (SNAI). Since 2016, Buechel has acted as the ANA-Illinois-appointed co-consultant to the SNAI Board of Directors. She continues to work with SNAI to develop future nurse leaders. Buechel served on the ANA-Illinois board of directors from June 2016 to November 2017. She also previously served on the American Nurses Association board from 2018-2019 as Director at Large Recent Graduate.

Buechel earned her BSN degree from the University of St. Francis, Joliet in 2015.

Frances La Monica, MS, RN

Fran LaMonica is currently the Executive Director of the Chicago Bilingual Nurse Consortium (CBNC), a non-profit 501 (c)(3) which assists Internationally Educated Nurses in achieving professional

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licensure in Illinois. She has been the CBNC Executive Director since 2016 and has provided oversight of the grants provided by the Chicago Community Trust, Sisters of Mercy and most recently the Walder Foundation.

Ms. LaMonica has over 35 years' experience in clinical, educational, quality & compliance, and administrative positions. She received her Bachelor's degree in Science (Nursing) from St. Xavier University and a Master's degree in Science (Nursing) from Rush University.

Ms. LaMonica practiced Nursing at Mercy Hospital and Medical Center in various clinical and leadership positions for several years. She also worked as the Clinical Staff Educator with the Illinois Department of Public Health from 2000-2004. She was an adjunct faculty member of St. Xavier University College of Nursing from 1989-2007. She also worked as an Independent Contractor/ Nurse Paralegal with Donohue, Brown, Matheson, Smyth, and Associates from 2015-2017. Her experience includes international nursing practice in Croatia during the war in 1994 where she served as a volunteer nurse caring for victims of war in the surgical shock unit of the Clinical Hospital Split.

Ms. LaMonica is a recipient of the 1995 Cook County Outstanding Community Leader award and the 1996 Excellence in Nursing Leadership award from Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Alpha Omicron Chapter.

Cynthia L Maskey PhD, RN, CNE

Cynthia Maskey is the Dean of Health Professions at Lincoln Land Community College. She has spent the majority of her professional career in Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) education having been ADN faculty for 17 years, Associate Dean of Nursing for three years and Dean since 2009. Prior to working in ADN education, she worked clinically in the acute and community settings, primarily with the pediatric population.

Dr. Maskey began her nursing career with her ADN from Lincoln Land Community College nearly four decades ago. She obtained her BSN from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, her MS from University of Illinois Chicago College of Nursing at the Peoria Campus and most recently her PhD in nursing science with a minor in nursing education from Indiana University School of Nursing at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI).

Dr. Maskey has been serving as an Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) Program Evaluator since 2003 and most recently as an Evaluation Review Panel (ERP) Member. She also serves on the board of the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (OADN), currently serving as the Treasurer for the organization. She is a member of the American Nurses Association and ANA/Illinois and Sigma Theta Tau International. She is a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) since 2005 having participated in the pilot project for the CNE examination. She has presented at local, state and national conferences and completed her dissertation work on the relationship between reflective judgment and critical thinking in senior associate degree nursing students.

Marsha Prater, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, FACHE

Marsha Prater, PhD, RN, is the Senior Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer of Memorial Health System (MHS) in Springfield IL. She oversees the integration of the MHS mission, vision, values and strategic goals into the daily operations and patient care delivery across the organization which includes five acute care hospitals, a home services division, a regional behavioral health network, and 80+ primary care practices. Dr. Prater brings over 35 years of nursing and leadership experience to the Board. She has been with Memorial since 1990, initially serving as the administrator for Oncology Services until assuming her current role in 1992. Prior to coming to Memorial, Dr. Prater was an assistant professor of surgery and a staff nurse at SIU School of Medicine and a medical-surgical staff nurse at St John's Hospital.

Dr. Prater holds adjunct faculty positions at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville (SIUE) School of Nursing and SIU School of Medicine. She also serves on the Advisory Committee of the Benedictine University Department of Nursing and Health. She is also a member of the American Nurses Association and ANA-Illinois.

Dr. Prater received her bachelor's degree from Illinois Wesleyan University. She obtained her master's and doctorate degrees from Southern Illinois University. She is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) and holds ANCC certification as a nurse executive advanced-board certified (NEA-BC). She is also a member of several professional nursing and healthcare leadership organizations, including AONL, IONL, and Sigma Theta Tau International.

Theresa E. Towle, DNP, FNP-BC, CNRN

Dr. Theresa Towle is a Family Nurse Practitioner and an Assistant Professor at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, where she also serves as the Director of the Family Nurse Practitioner program. She has held previous academic appointments with Loyola University Chicago and Rush University, Chicago, Illinois. Clinically, she practices on an as-needed basis with the Indian Health Service in Northern Arizona, providing care for the Native American tribes in and around the Grand Canyon and surrounding Mohave desert.

Dr. Towle's clinical experience is in family practice with additional expertise in advanced pain management, neurology and neurosurgery. However, she has had experience working with most of the medical specialties throughout her vast nursing career.

Professionally, Dr. Towle has served on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing and has served as the Outreach Director for the International Parkinson & Movement Disorder Society. Currently, she serves on the speakers' bureau for the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and the Collaborative On REMS Education (CO*RE) series dedicated to educating nurse practitioners on opioid prescribing and abuse. Most recently, she has published a podcast through AANP on safe opioid prescribing for primary care providers. She is currently a member of the AANP, ISAPN, American Nurses Association and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing.

Dr. Towle graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Indiana University, Master of Science in Nursing from St. Xavier University, and Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Rush University, in Chicago, where she was successful in establishing a multi-disciplinary presence within an international physician organization. She has also received a certificate in Clinical Trials Management from the University of Chicago.