

# EDUCATION COMMUNIQUÉ

Spring 2021



## Education and Practice Department Updates

Greetings to all of our nursing education program directors. As we continue to adapt to changes brought on by COVID-19, we will remain steadfast in the fulfillment of our mission, to protect the public by regulating the practice of nursing. The support of our mission to ensure approved pre-licensure nursing programs maintain adherence to the standards that lead to excellence in nursing education continues as we navigate through departmental changes. Effective August 1, 2021, the combined Education and Practice Department will become two interrelated, yet independent departmental units. We are pleased to announce Dr. Jennifer Lewis serves as Director of the Education Department.

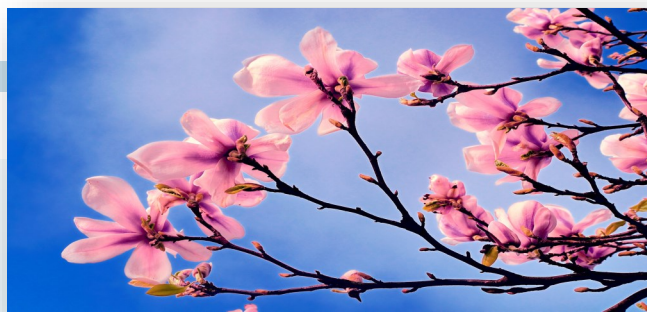
### Dr. Jennifer Lewis

Dr. Jennifer Lewis is Director of Education for the North Carolina Board of Nursing (NCBON). In this role she provides consultation and education to licensees, nurse employers, and members of the public regarding issues related to nursing practice and pre-licensure nursing education programs. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the NCBON Research Committee and has represented the NCBON nationally by serving on the NCLEX Item Review Subcommittee, Awards Committee and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Nurse Licensure Compact Research Committee with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. She has also served on the Model Documents Committee of the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards and served on the Executive Committee for the North Carolina Foundation for Nursing.

Dr. Lewis holds a BSN from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned her dual graduate degree (MSN/MBA) as well as PhD in Nursing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Dr. Lewis has received certifications in Workplace Accountability for Just Culture and in basic and advanced/specialized training in investigative techniques through the Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation (CLEAR). Dr. Lewis's professional activities include membership in the North Carolina Nurses Association, the North Carolina Organization for Nurse Leaders, and the American Organization of Nurse Leaders. Dr. Lewis has received a number of honors including: recipient of the 2015 Eunice M. Smith Scholarship from the North Carolina Nurses Association, recipient of the 2017 Dean's Recognition Award from the University of North Carolina, School of Nursing, and recipient of the Overall Excellence in Nursing Research Award presented by the North Carolina Organization of Nurse Leaders. Her research interests include nursing error and implications on practice, as well as policy initiatives impacting nursing practice and regulation. Dr. Lewis is married to Jessie and together they have two beautiful children, Joshua and Jessica.



## Education Department - Update



### Dr. Terry Ward, Education Consultant

We introduced Dr. Ward as NCBON staff in July of 2020. As an integral part of the Education Department, Dr. Ward has been a registered nurse for 30 years. She received her Bachelors

and Masters of Science in Nursing from the University of Mobile in Mobile, AL. She earned her PhD from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is a Certified Nurse Educator with extensive experience in curriculum

development, program evaluation, teaching and learning. She has served in various nursing leadership roles in both education and practice, most recently as Director of the School of Nursing and Associate Dean in the College of Health and Human Sciences at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. She is the past president of the North Carolina League for Nursing and served on the North Carolina Nurses Association Triangle Region Board. The North Carolina Nurses Association named her the 2017 Nurse Educator of the Year. She is a North Carolina Great 100 recipient. Dr. Ward's area of research interest is mental health and her work has been disseminated through presentations and publications.



Other key organizational changes include Dr. Crystal Tillman as Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Sara Griffith as Chief Nursing Officer, and Joyce Winstead as Director of the Practice Department. Tonya Body will continue in her role as Education Coordinator. The Education Department will continue to provide consistent communication as we progress toward our final transition. Dr. Lewis and Dr. Ward will assume all nursing programs effective August 1, 2021. Email notifications including consultant assignments will be submitted to all program directors prior to the effective date. We appreciate your continued commitment to your students as you offer ongoing guidance and support.

### Education Program Director Orientation

The next Education Program Director Orientation (EPDO) offering will be held virtually on September 15, 2021. All newly approved program directors will receive a personal invitation providing meeting details and registration information. This education offering will provide new program directors with information outlining NCBON functions, as well as maintaining compliance with North Carolina regulation relating to nursing education programs.

### 17th Annual Education Summit Update

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all that attended the 17th Annual Education Summit. Due to the challenges associated with COVID-19, we offered the conference virtually. Our success emanated from over 250 in attendance. The following were our 2021 Education Summit presenters:

**Mr. Jason Schwartz** - National Council of State Boards of Nursing - Next Generation NCLEX Update

**Dr. Nancy Spector** - National Council of State Boards of Nursing - NCSBN Nursing Approval Guidelines

**Dr. Crystal Tillman** - CEO of the North Carolina Board of Nursing - Clinical Judgment

A special thanks to the William and Ida Friday Center in Chapel Hill for hosting this virtual conference. Mark your calendars for the 18th Annual Education Summit scheduled for March 28, 2022.

### Education and Practice Committee Update

On March 18, 2021, the NCBON voted to approve proposed revisions to 21 NCAC 36. 0317 ADMINISTRATION and 21 NCAC 36. 0318 ADMINISTRATION. Proposed revisions will eliminate the percentage requirements for full-time and part-time faculty to hold a graduate degree in nursing. Of note, 21 NCAC 36. 0318(c) remains unchanged and fifty percent or more of the nursing faculty shall hold a graduate degree. The next meeting for the Education and Practice Committee will occur on August 10, 2021.

## RESOURCE CORNER

### NCSBN 2021 Virtual NCLEX Conference

September 30, 2021

[Click here](#) to register

NCSBN Tri-Council Report - [Implications and Opportunities from the COVID-19 Pandemic for Nursing Education, Practice, and Regulation](#)

National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (NACNEP) report to Congress - [Preparing Nurse Faculty and Addressing the Shortage of Nurse Faculty and Clinical Preceptor Report](#)

National Academies of Medicine Report - [The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity](#)

Employment Trends of New Nurse Graduates - [NCSBN Leader to Leader](#)

## UPDATES

### Exam Department

Nursing graduates of 2021 will play a vital role in continuing the fight against COVID-19. The onset of the pandemic has equipped graduates of 2020 and 2021 with a unique advantage when transitioning into the workforce. The Temporary Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Graduate Permit was a key response by the NCBON to assist nursing graduates navigate through challenges triggered by COVID-19.

#### Essential Facts

- ◆ All new graduates applying for licensure in North Carolina will automatically have access to the Temporary RN and LPN Graduate Permit with no additional cost.
- ◆ Permits are restricted **only** to single state privileges. Students planning to secure employment in bordering compact states should defer to waiver information provided by each respective state.
- ◆ After issuance, the permit is valid for six months or until the candidate tests; whichever occurs first. Permits for passing students will remain active throughout the six months if the clearance associated with background checks has yet to occur.
- ◆ Permit deactivation for graduates is automatic when the first attempt at taking the NCLEX exam is deemed unsuccessful. Renewal of the permit is not an option in this instance.

[Click here](#) for additional information outlining temporary graduate permits. Updated information related to graduate brochures, licensure, and NLC will be uploaded to [www.ncbon.com](http://www.ncbon.com) within the coming weeks. Please continue to check our website for the latest details.



Program Director Gateway 

The Program Director Gateway is the NCBON data system that allows verification of program completers who are deemed eligible to sit for the NCLEX exam. Only the NCBON-approved program director has access to the Program Director Gateway.

**If you experience issues with your assigned login credentials, consider the following:**

- ◆ Access the Program Director Gateway using a web browser different from what was used during your last login attempt.
- ◆ Disable the web browser pop-up blockers.
- ◆ Confirm you are accessing the **Program Director Gateway** and not the **Nurse Gateway**.

**Contact Tonya Body at (919) 782-3211, ext. 238 or email [education@ncbon.com](mailto:education@ncbon.com) if you experience issues with student verification or Program Director Gateway access.**

## North Carolina Board of Nursing

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