The Keys to Inclusive Leadership in Nursing (KILN) program prepares nursing students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented among registered nurses, to enter the public health nursing workforce as leaders with the inherent capacity to make a difference in local communities.

Through this newsletter, our students have an opportunity to share their thoughts and experiences as they participate in activities that emphasize leadership, professional development, and community health. To read more about these activities and what the students have to say, visit bc.edu/kiln.

recent student activities

“ It was extremely motivational to see the recipients accept their awards. Their stories of hardship, momentary defeat, and setbacks illustrated just how much they have persevered in their careers. The event reminded me **how important it is for me to succeed as a Black nurse** and set high goals for myself just as these nurses have.”

Anna Diané on the New England Regional Black Nurses Association Awards

“ The meeting with Norma Martínez Rogers brought our sense of racial community together as a group. She communicated the importance of **helping each other out and pushing each other** to strive for higher goals as a way to pursue our dreams.”

Gio Trilleras on meeting with Dr. Norma Martínez Rogers, president of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses

“ A key lesson I took away from this event was the importance of addressing the entire spectrum of the patient population. **Health care should be made available to all who need it.** It is up to health care providers to discern and treat the needs of each individual separately, alleviating pain and suffering throughout the country and world.”

Stephanie Mui on the Northeast Regional VA Nursing Alliance Colloquia Series “Care of the American Veteran: Homelessness”

“ One of the points Dr. Jemmott emphasized to the students was to find what it is that you are passionate about, pursue it, and **most importantly, never give up.**”

Terry Bustos on lunch with Dr. Loretta Jemmott, HIV/AIDS researcher and director of the Center for Health Disparities Research at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing
To this day, all the nurses I have encountered have expressed their love for the nursing profession and acknowledged that if they were to go back and do everything over again, they would choose nursing every single time. Mother Teresa once said, “In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love.” She couldn’t have said it any better. Nurses are not miracle workers. They can’t cure life-threatening diseases with the blink of an eye or with a simple remedy. However, in addition to providing optimal healthcare, nurses can offer the love and compassion that gives their patients the hope and inspiration they may need on their journey towards recovery. Small gestures—such as holding a hand during a painful procedure or smiling upon entering a room—have an immeasurable influence on a patient’s well being. Having the opportunity to give this hope to patients—regardless of age, gender, race, or circumstance—is the primary reason why I chose nursing school.

Shiva Moshtagh

My decision to become a nursing student was life changing and risky, but wonderful and emotional. The “real world” experience of clinical is indescribable and exciting. It also adds depth to the character of a nursing student because I have had the privilege to share the experience of childbirth with one family, but the sorrow of a cancer diagnosis with another. Although there have been times when I have been caught up with papers and exams, I think about my long term duty to the patients and to being a part of perfecting nursing practice. So you ask me once again, “Why nursing school?” and I simply respond that I cannot picture myself doing anything else in the world. Becoming a nurse for me is like going home for Thanksgiving break; it’s familiar, it’s exciting, and it’s something I truly look forward to.

Jessica Fenty-Scotland

As a sick person, I realized that the nurse could not physically feel my pain but only help to treat it. However, she also treated other parts of my health in the process by lending a listening ear and displaying empathy. Thus, I chose nursing school because I wanted to give a similar type of care to my patients so that they could experience the “piece of heaven” that I felt when I was in a vulnerable stage in my life.

Sania Beckford

The definition of nursing is seen from diverse perspectives and different rays of light. These perspectives often revolve around ideas and concepts that nursing represents such as care and the promotion of well being. However, I feel that nursing is much more than ideas, but also action. As a caretaker and advocator, it only seems reasonable and natural to take health care beyond the typical medical assessment. The roles of nurses also include introducing new methods and interventions that will be specific and beneficial to each individual patient.

John Sok

Want to know more about the KILN program? Visit bc.edu/kiln, where you can read more about the scholars, meet the KILN team, and link to our blog.