BUILDING ON A NATIONAL REPUTATION

UWM's College of Nursing is a leader in nursing education and research. Consistently ranked in the top 10 percent of graduate nursing programs in the U.S., the college educates more nursing students than any other nursing school in Wisconsin. As the state’s largest nursing program, UWM is addressing the growing nursing shortage by graduating nurses prepared to create bold and effective solutions that promote better health and health care for all.

The college’s faculty and alumni are renowned nationally and internationally for their contributions to nursing science, innovative practice, and curriculum models. Our unique community and corporate partnerships provide the foundation for cutting-edge academic programs that attract a talented student body and provide nursing care to underinsured and uninsured Milwaukee residents.

Investing in nursing education and research will significantly improve future health care delivery and, consequently, the general health of our community. Through this campaign, we seek to triple the number of nursing student scholarships we offer, raise the profile and impact of nursing research, maintain safety-net health clinics, and build a clinical simulation center that will be critical for our continued accreditation.

Read on to learn more about the work being done at the college, our goals in this campaign, and the stories of donors who are helping to bring these goals within sight.

CAMPAIGN GOAL: $10 MILLION
STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

The College of Nursing has students at all degree levels, pursuing bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees as well as certifications. Many of our students come directly from the surrounding community, and 70 percent of our graduates stay in Wisconsin. Because nurses are needed everywhere, every day, the college is consistently strengthening the community through the graduates we produce.

Since its inception in 1965, the College of Nursing has graduated more than 8,000 students. Our alumni are working in hospitals, community clinics, universities, K-12 schools, birth centers, hospice care organizations, and more. Support for our students helps us remain competitive in attracting the best and brightest while providing access for those who could not otherwise afford a quality education.

GOAL FOR STUDENT SUPPORT: $2 MILLION

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Undergraduate students are the lifeblood of our college, and support for their education underscores the university’s dual mission of access and research. A newly established scholarship can be named after the donor, a loved one, a mentor, or an esteemed faculty member. Endowed scholarships provide support in perpetuity while current-use scholarships can be established for a specified period of time.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

A graduate scholarship, also called a fellowship, provides a stipend that supports a student conducting a research project or working in a clinical setting. Fellowships are strong recruiting tools that help entice graduate students to choose the UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing for their graduate study.

IN HONOR OF NURSES

UWM alumna Ilona Ontscherenki had an epiphany watching her father, Simon, undergo cancer treatment at West Allis Memorial Hospital. “I began to see what amazing skills nurses hold and the boundless capacity for empathy and compassion necessary for them to succeed,” she says. After her father’s death, Ontscherenki created a scholarship at UWM to honor his memory and the nurses who cared for him.

“Now I am honoring my father’s memory by helping future generations on their professional path. Through this scholarship, I am also investing in my own fate; I’m part of the generation that will soon need more nursing care. I couldn’t think of a better school to invest in than my own alma mater.”

Blessing Lee received the Ontscherenki Scholarship as an undergraduate, and Natalie McAndrew as a PhD student. “My goal is to show my donors a return on investment by helping patients, families, and communities live healthier lives,” says McAndrew. “Nursing science empowers me to find solutions to complex problems and gives me hope that we can develop a stronger, more effective health care system.”
Research is vital to the college’s mission as a premier, urban, academic, collegial nursing community engaged in transforming health care delivery and policy, and promoting wellness for all people. The College of Nursing is one of the most robust scientific research operations at UWM. More than 75 percent of our faculty are funded by public and/or private entities, including support from the National Institutes of Health. Graduate and undergraduate students work alongside nursing faculty in creating bold and effective solutions for advancing local, national, and global health. Your support will help us continue our wide-ranging critical research efforts.

A ROBUST RESEARCH OPERATION

GOAL FOR RESEARCH SUPPORT: $2 MILLION

CHAIRS AND PROFESSORSHIPS
Endowed chairs and professorships are among the highest forms of recognition an institution can bestow, and they serve as essential tools to help us attract and retain outstanding faculty and promote scholarly research.

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED HEALTH RESEARCH
With extensive experience in community-based participatory research methodologies, our researchers exert a national influence and lead in key areas of community-engaged research. Important areas include healthy pregnancy, birth, and infant outcomes; chronic disease prevention and management; and environmental health.

SELF-MANAGEMENT RESEARCH
The Self-Management Science Center is the nexus for scientists who are testing and revising the Individual and Family Self-Management Theory. Self-management is highly consistent with the prevention, care coordination, and person-centered outcomes of the Affordable Care Act. This is the only UWM center to receive funding from the National Institutes of Health.

GERIATRIC HEALTH CARE RESEARCH
Our faculty provide national leadership in advancing geriatric health care through clinical intervention research, bench science, and theory development and testing. Our team specializes in research with frail and vulnerable older adults, including those with dementia.

NURSING PROFESSORSHIP BOLSTERS RESEARCH

Improving the quality of life for people in long-term care facilities is a major priority for Christine Kovach, who holds a PhD in nursing. A professor in the College of Nursing and the director of research at the Jewish Home and Care Center in Milwaukee, Kovach is investigating how to reduce infection rates, improve nurses’ assessments, decrease pain, and make sure long-term care facilities provide what patients, staff, and families need most.

To help carry out this research, the Jewish Home and Care Center Foundation is supporting a three-year professorship for Kovach. “Dr. Kovach has been associated with our organization for more than 20 years and has worked with our residents and staff, elevating our entire community’s quality of life,” says Michael Sattell, the foundation’s president.

Kovach’s aim is that her research will advance the field of gerontology on a national and international scale. “I want to solve practical problems that will improve outcomes for older adults,” says Kovach. “This professorship allows me to do meaningful work.”
A WIDE-REACHING IMPACT

From the city of Milwaukee to the heart of Africa, the College of Nursing is directly affecting the health of communities near and far. Our community nursing centers have more than 100,000 encounters with clients each year and have become a vital resource that Milwaukee residents rely on to stay healthy. Our nursing students are encouraged to study abroad and learn about the health care systems, practices, and beliefs of their host countries, and our faculty promote culturally informed, appropriate, competent, and ethical health and well-being in a global context. Your support will help keep these impactful programs intact.

COMMUNITY NURSING CENTERS

Local Milwaukee communities have received health promotion and health care for more than 30 years through the College of Nursing’s community nursing centers. The extraordinary success of these centers, which provide services to some of the state’s most underserved populations, laid the foundation for the Institute for Urban Health Partnerships, one of the few programs nationally that match expertise of faculty with the community to develop more effective health care solutions.

GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

The Center for Global Health Equity coordinates study abroad programs, hosts visiting international scholars, organizes conferences and programs, offers courses in global health, and fosters overseas research, all with the goal of improving the health and well-being of communities around the world. Our researchers have expertise in examining and addressing social, economic, and political determinants of health on a global level, with a major focus on East Africa, Southern Africa, and Southeast Asia.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

The college established the Westlawn Partnership for a Healthier Environment (WPHE) in 2008 to identify and prioritize environmental health risks in the Westlawn community and implement solutions to reduce those risks. WPHE has implemented Healthy Homes and Healthy Day Care programs in Westlawn to improve indoor air quality, reduce asthma triggers, and provide health education about asthma.

CARE FOR COMMUNITIES

When Barbara Friedbacher looks back on her 33-year career in nursing, she is most proud of her role in developing UWM’s Silver Spring Community Nursing Center. After working as a nurse for more than 20 years, Friedbacher earned her master’s degree at the College of Nursing in 1984 and was recruited to assist with the college’s expansion of community-based activities.

“Barb provided vital administrative leadership, staff development, and program oversight,” says Jean Bell-Calvin, current director of the Silver Spring Community Nursing Center and a mentee of Friedbacher. “This center has provided stability and continuity for our clients and the community. We help people stay healthy. People tell us, ‘If it weren’t for you, I don’t know where I’d be.’”

Friedbacher’s involvement didn’t end when she retired. In 2004, her family established an endowed fund in her honor to support programs for disadvantaged women and children. “My husband and I strongly believe in the right of every individual to readily accessible, high-quality, culturally relevant health care. We support the community nursing centers because of the demonstrated effectiveness of the outstanding staff in delivering those services and the excellent learning opportunities for nursing students.”

GOAL FOR ENGAGEMENT SUPPORT: $2 MILLION

UWM has two of the few nurse-managed community health centers in the country. Our clients are committed to their health because they see we are doing everything we can for them.

JEAN BELL-CALVIN

My husband and I support UWM’s community nursing centers because we strongly believe in the right of every individual to readily accessible, high-quality, culturally relevant health care.

BARBARA FRIEBDACHER ’84
While our country faces an impending shortage of nurses, the College of Nursing is turning away qualified applicants every semester because we simply do not have the facilities to accommodate more students. A clinical simulation center would allow us to increase enrollment by 30 percent, thereby increasing the number of nurses in southeastern Wisconsin and beyond. It would also be a resource for doctoral students from other programs and a place where area paramedics and firefighters could get additional training.

In 2015, James and Yvonne Ziemer gave $1 million to support this important project. “This gift expresses our hope that our children, grandchildren, and all families in our community will have access to the highest quality nursing care,” said the couple. “We know that UWM has outstanding students and faculty, and they need our support to expand their capacity to meet the workforce needs of the future.”

"UWM needs our support to expand their capacity to meet the workforce needs of the future."  

JAMES AND YVONNE ZIEMER

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Our donors are helping the College of Nursing develop nursing scholars, leaders, and clinicians. This support—for our undergraduate and graduate students; our expert faculty; and our local, national, and global partnerships—will improve health outcomes for citizens worldwide.

– KIM LITWACK
INTERIM DEAN

UWM’s College of Nursing is taking innovative approaches to teaching and learning. By translating science from the research bench to bedsides, we are advancing health for all people. Your support can help us increase the number of nurses entering the workforce, stimulate interdisciplinary research, and transform how health care is delivered.

– SALLY LUNDEEN
RETIRED DEAN