2025 Joseph and Joan Pranis Kenney Endowed Conference for Excellence in Nursing Education

Save the Date: October 29th 2025 at 8am

Choice of In-person at Harrisburg or Virtual Attendance

Opportunities in Nursing Education

The Joseph and Joan Pranis Kenney Conference on Best Practices in Nursing Education was established in November 2018. The generous endowment pledged by Joseph and Joan Pranis Kenney was designed to encourage more nurses to become nurse educators, improve the quality of nursing education, and provide informed, talented, and compassionate care for our patients.

Clinical Learning for All: Inclusive Strategies for Supporting Autistic Neurodivergent Nursing Students

TEACCH Autism Program
The University of North Carolina TEACCH Autism Program is a University-based system of community regional centers that offer a set of core services along with unique demonstration programs meeting the clinical, training, and research needs of autistic individuals, their families, and professionals across North Carolina.

- Briefly describe common learning styles and cognitive processing traits often seen in students on the autism spectrum or with related neurodivergent profiles.
- Identify key challenges these students may encounter during clinical instruction, particularly in areas such as clinical judgment, cognitive flexibility, and communication.
- Apply inclusive, strengths-based strategies to support success in clinical learning environments for students who think and process differently.

Exploring Virtual Reality Simulation in Nursing Education

Tanae Traister, PhD, RN
Assistant Dean, Assistant Professor: School of Nursing & Health Sciences, Pennsylvania College of Technology

- Identify the impact of virtual reality (VR) simulation on nursing students' anxiety levels
- Assess the effect of VR simulation on students' development of therapeutic communication skills
- Discuss the educational value and practical integration of VR simulation in nursing education

Artificial Intelligence Applications for Nursing Faculty in Academic Environments

Jennifer Manning, DNS, ACNS-BC, CNE, FCNS
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, Coordinator Adult Gerontology, Clinical Nurse Specialist Program

- Identify and describe at least three practical applications of artificial intelligence (AI) that can enhance teaching, research, and administrative tasks for nursing faculty in academic settings.
- Evaluate the potential benefits and challenges of integrating AI tools into nursing curricula and pedagogical strategies.
- Formulate an initial plan for incorporating a specific AI application into their own nursing education or research practices.