50th Anniversary Year
1970 - 2020

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
Stony Brook
School *of* Nursing
1970-2020

Stony Brook University School of Nursing is celebrating 50 years! The School of Nursing was one of the first schools to open on the Health Science Campus (HSC) in September of 1970 with slightly over 100 full time students. Students were already registered nurses and were enrolled in a baccalaureate completion program with 16 students graduating at the end of the first year in 1971. This meant that these 16 students became the first HSC alumni of Stony Brook University!

Dr. Ellen Fahy, who was the first Dean of the School of Nursing, arrived in 1969 from Columbia University where she was a professor and had served as a consultant to the Muir Commission. The Muir Commission was established by then Governor Rockefeller who appointed Malcolm Muir of Newsweek to study and report in 1963 on "Education for the Health Professions" that recommended the creation of new nursing, medical and dental schools in New York state. His report was a companion report to the Heald Commission report that called for SUNY to create two universities that "would stand with the finest in the country."

Dr. Fahy's spirited embrace of this challenge subsequently led to the opening of its next program, a pre-licensure baccalaureate program. Then with the arrival of Dr. Lenore McClean in 1973 (who later became second and fourth Dean of the School of Nursing) master's programs in nursing were established and opened in 1975 to educate nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists. The early programs at that time were in critical care, family health, mental health, and women's health. Today, Stony Brook School of Nursing offers a PhD, Master's and Post-Graduate degrees in Nursing Education and Nursing Leadership and Master's, Post-Graduate and Doctorate of Nursing Practice nurse practitioner degree programs in Adult-Gerontology, Family, Pediatric, Psychiatric Mental Health, Neonatal, Women's Health and Midwifery Coincidentally, the Midwifery program this year is celebrating 25 years!

Online education was pioneered at Stony Brook University School of Nursing starting with reportedly the first distance/online Midwifery program in 1994. This innovative program was subsequently emulated throughout the nation. The Doctorate in Nursing Practice Program opened in 2008 and the PhD program opened in 2018. Subsequent Deans of the School of Nursing following Dr. McClean were Dr. Mary Nies and Dr. Lee Xippolitos.

The legacy of these early years created the educational, clinical practice and research excellence that is the proud reputation of Stony Brook University School of Nursing. This year the School of Nursing Online Master's in Nursing Program was ranked #9 and the Online Master's in Nursing Program for Veterans was ranked #4 by US News and World Report. This past year undergraduate nursing students achieved a 98.1% pass rate on the national licensing exam for registered nurses (NCLEX) outperforming the average pass rate of every state in the Nation.

This academic year the School of Nursing sponsored a 50th Anniversary Seminar series that featured nationally and internationally recognized alumni that presented on such topics as: "Managing Critical COVID19 Challenges: Nursing on the Front Line," "Rapid Response Team in an Academic Medical Center: Practice and Management in an NP Lead Model," "The Future of Midwifery Education and Clinical Practice: Developing Future Leaders," "Vaccine Hesitancy and Resistance During a Global Pandemic: Nurses Lead a Positive Change," and "PTSD in Healthcare Personnel: Lessons from Vietnam."

Today the School of Nursing has over 1,300 undergraduate and graduate students and 10,000 alumni in all 50 states and across the globe. We invite you to join us today as we celebrate the 50th graduating class of students at Stony Brook University School of Nursing!!

Stony Brook
School *of* Nursing