



DEPARTMENT
OF NURSING
CSU BAKERSFIELD

Celebrating



*50 Years of Excellence: Reflecting on
the Past and Envisioning the Future*

EVENT PROGRAM
APRIL 27, 2024 | 2PM



PROGRAM

**Doors Open 1:30 p.m.
Event starts at 2 p.m.**

Welcome from Nursing Department

Interim President Welcome: Dr. Vernon Harper

Recognition of Donors

Honoring our First Graduating Class

Florence Nightingale Pledge

Alumni Speaker: Dr. Peggy Leapley

Alumni Speaker: Terri Church

Keynote Speaker: Jean Steel

Honoring our 50th Graduating Class

Donation Opportunities—Highlights of all three programs

Call to Action—How can you get involved at CSUB Nursing?

Thank you and Invitation to Tour



Message from the

INTERIM PRESIDENT, DR. VERNON B. HARPER JR.



Fifty years ago, Cal State Bakersfield was still a new college finding its way on the outskirts of town. The lush tree-lined grounds and the programs and traditions that would become pride points for the entire community were still years or decades away from reality.

Except for one extraordinary pride point:
Our nursing students.

Back in the early 1970s, the nursing students were easy to spot in their white shoes, white dresses – nearly all were women – and those white nurse caps that fell out of fashion somewhere along the way. Today's nursing students may not stand out in the same blinding flash of white, but just like the 2,500 nursing graduates who came before them, they do stand out. For at CSUB, the excellence of the nursing program distinguishes our faculty, staff and students as among the best in the nation.

On behalf of the entire Roadrunner community and a grateful region, I want to thank all of the alumni who have brought distinction to CSUB with your excellence and compassionate care to patients in our community and beyond.



Message from the

DEAN OF SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES, MATHEMATICS, AND ENGINEERING, DR. JANE DONG



Today we celebrate the golden anniversary of our Nursing program and honor the remarkable legacy forged by our alumni and faculty—a legacy that has touched countless lives and transformed our local communities.

I would like to salute our Nursing faculty for their passion for nurturing the next generation of nurses and their dedication to fostering innovation in healthcare. And shout out to our alumni who worked so hard to enhance the well-being of the people in our local region. Many of them became leaders in the profession who helped to shape the future of healthcare.

As we reflect on our past achievements, we also look towards the future with boundless optimism and determination. The School of NSME is proud to support the department of Nursing in expanding the horizons of nursing education. We look forward to launching a groundbreaking Doctor in Nursing Practice program in Fall 2025, offering new opportunities for health professionals to advance their careers.

I cannot wait to see the future impact that our Nursing program will continue to make. With each new cohort of students, we renew our pledge to excellence, empathy, integrity, service, and increasing access to quality care for all.



Welcome from Nursing



DEBRA WILSON
Department Chair



KRYSTAL BALL
Mistress of Ceremonies

Welcome to our 50th Anniversary celebration! We hope you enjoy this time to reminisce with your colleagues who have impacted the health and well-being of our community. As you look around the room at nurses that have spanned that amount of time, think of all the patients they have impacted, all the education they have given families and all the healthcare changes they have seen take place.

The Department of Nursing at CSUB has served our community over the past 50 years by providing professional, hard-working, and dedicated baccalaureate-prepared nurses that have embodied the 'Runner spirit. In addition, our graduate program has provided nurse leaders for our community as well as primary health care providers to meet the critical shortages faced in our county.

Today we celebrate each of our nearly 2,500 graduates, including our first class of 1974 and our 50th class of 2024. We welcome you home to your alma mater and ask you to partner with us as we set out for the next fifty years to train exceptional nurses that will impact this community and beyond...thank you for joining us today. Enjoy walking the halls once again, and be proud of where you have come from, as we are proud of you! Welcome home!



Nightingale Pledge

I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to faithfully practice my profession of nursing. I will do all in my power to make and maintain the highest standard and practices of my profession.

I will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping in the practice of my calling. I will assist the physician in his work and will devote myself to the welfare of my patients, my family and my community.

I will endeavor to fulfill my rights and privileges as a good citizen and take my share of responsibility in promoting the health and welfare of the community.

I will constantly endeavor to increase my knowledge and skills in nursing and to use them wisely. I will zealously seek to nurse those who are ill wherever they may be and whenever they are in need.

I will be active in assisting others in safeguarding and promoting the health and happiness of mankind.





Kern County Nurse Honor Guard

The Nurses' Honor Guard pays tribute to nurses at the time of their death by performing the Nightingale Tribute at the funeral or memorial service. This service is similar to a military tribute and officially releases the nurse from their nursing duties. The ceremonial tribute lasts about five minutes. Our goal is to provide dignity and respect in recognition to our fellow colleagues at the time of their passing.

The Kern County Nurse Honor Guard considers it a privilege to honor our fallen colleagues. To request a tribute or to find out more information about becoming a member, please contact any of the following:

Brenda Adams: Chapter Chair (661) 303-3943

Karen Coughenour: Chapter Vice Chair (661) 747-3873

Retta Michelli: Chapter Treasurer (661) 378-6179



About the Alumni Speakers

“Reflecting on the Past”

PEGGY LEAPLEY, PHD, APRN

Post Masters FNP certificate from CSUB 1999, Indiana University (BSN), University of Michigan at Ann Arbor (Masters of Public Health Nursing), University of Texas at Austin (PhD) Nursing Career focused on psychiatric/mental health nursing, public health and children/adolescents



Peggy was employed at CSUB in the Department of Nursing for 31 years. She has twice been chair of the department; from 1999 to 2002 and 2006 to 2008. Her primary teaching areas include community health, research and family practice. Her scholarly activities include over 30 local, state, national and international presentations, and a number of national publications. Her most notable contributions to the university have been on the Academic Senate and Executive Committee, University Budget Advisory Committee, the Central Valley Health Policy Institute and as a member of the CSU Chancellor's Office's Doctoral

Education in Nursing committee.

Her community service includes part-time pediatric nursing work at Kern Medical Center, service as a part-time school nurse with the Delano Union Elementary School District and a part-time run as a nurse practitioner with Terry Medical Clinic and Wasco clinic. Peggy volunteered at the Kern County Public Health Department by teaching the Nursing Child Assessment Satellite Training Scale and assisting with interviews for public health nurse promotions. From 2012 to 2017 she was employed part-time at the Gloria Nelson Center for Women and Children in Delano as a family nurse practitioner. She has written or collaborated on multiple grants for CSUB and the community. After retiring from CSUB, she returned for four years to coordinate CSUB's role in the National Children's Study in collaboration with the University of California, Irvine. After retiring from active clinical practice, she became a volunteer for the American Red Cross, Kern-Eastern Sierra Chapter. She served as the academic student learning coordinator and is a member of the disaster health service team. Peggy continues to support faculty through her Leapley Doctoral Scholarship offered through the Xi Epsilon chapter of Sigma.

About the Alumni Speakers

“Envisioning the Future”

TERRI CHURCH, MSNA, RN, NEA-BC
Vice President, Chief Operating Officer



Terri Church has been a nurse in California’s Central Valley for over 40 years. She has been recognized by her peers for her strength in leadership. She currently serves as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) for Memorial Hospital. Terri has been with Dignity Health since 2008, serving as Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) as well as Chief Nursing Officer for the Dignity Health Central California Division for the past two years.

Terri holds two degrees from California State University, Bakersfield, including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing Administration. As CNO, Terri has helped oversee an extraordinary expansion of local health care services at Memorial Hospital, including comprehensive pediatric services, oncology, stroke and catastrophic burn care. She has been a passionate advocate for nursing education, and thoughtfully balanced the care of patients with the emotional toll it has taken on nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Terri’s career in health care spans four decades, including 26 years at Adventist Health (formerly San Joaquin Community Hospital) where she served as Vice President of Patient Care, and two years as Director of Nursing at Comprehensive Blood and Cancer Center before joining the Memorial Hospital team in 2008.

As a leader, Terri encourages nurses to pursue advanced degrees, mentors young nurse leaders and collaborates with the CSUB and Bakersfield College RN programs. She oversaw implementation of the Versant RN New Graduate Nurse Residency Program in 2009, which has produced nearly 700 clinically-competent nurses, improving patient care and growing the nursing leadership ranks. Under Terri’s leadership, Memorial achieved the ANCC Pathway to Excellence Designation in 2016 and re-designation in 2019 and has launched the High Reliability Organization (HRO) journey in 2021.

Terri has been recognized by Kern County’s chapter of the Association of Nurse Leaders, the Bakersfield College Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee and the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society. She also received the CSUB Nightingale Award for excellence in nursing and, most recently, was inducted as a 2022 member of the California State University, Bakersfield Alumni Hall of Fame.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

HAPPY NURSES WIN!

The field of nursing is not for the weak, nor the heartless. You set out for this career because you want to make a difference, and you do - daily! And while caring for others is a beautiful thing, when was the last time you thought about where YOU are on your priority list?

Your happiness is a choice, and focusing on positivity with every small decision you make throughout the day is what determines your own personal and professional success. You simply can't bring your best self to work every day without self-care.

Easier said than done, I know! It's time someone helps you take care of you.

Jean will be your guide on your journey of reducing stress and increasing resilience! She will share tips to identify self-imposed stress, find gratitude and optimism and remind yourself why you chose this field. YOU make a difference!!



Jean Steel

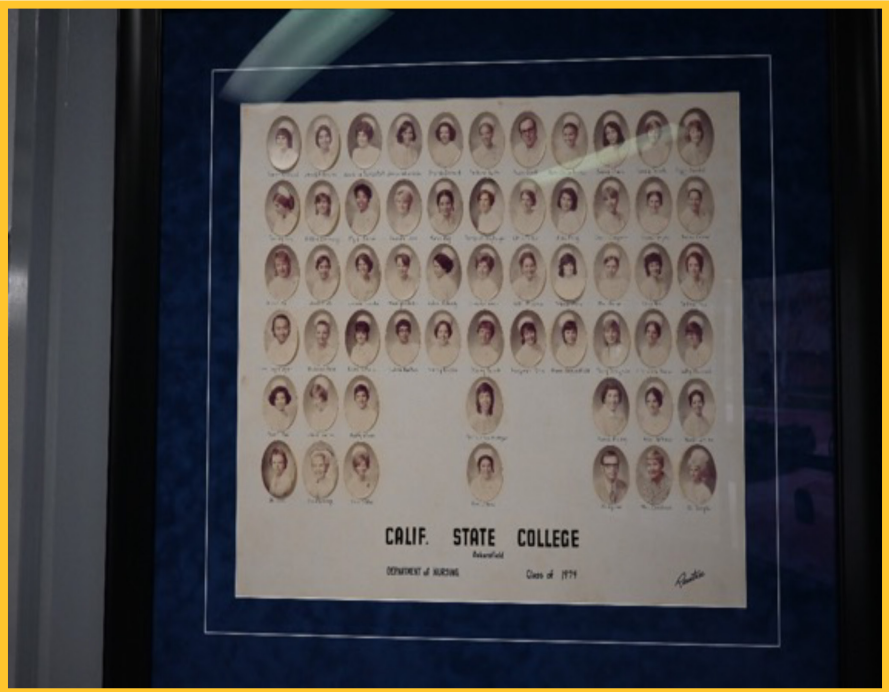
Jean moved overseas at an early age as her family followed their father's passions, spending much of their childhood in Africa and Asia. This experience taught Jean to appreciate the little things in life that we most often take for granted.

Jean followed her passion and subsequently received her master's degree in wellness/mind/body health from CSU Sacramento. It is her education and life experiences that have brought light to her understanding of the integration of balance and harmony of an individual's mental, physical, emotional, social and spiritual self, resulting in a positive state of well-being - Happiness and Resilience. And these are the topics she has chosen to base her work around as a speaker and author.

Jean has served on the faculty of Santa Barbara City College, Cal State Sacramento, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. She has authored two books - I'd Like to Run Wild!, a Wellness Action Guide and Need Change? Customer Service Tips to Grow from Good to Great! Years later, Jean still pays visits to Africa and Asia as often as possible while also giving back much of her time and profits to several local and global charities.



Honoring our First Graduating Class



*We are honored today to have several of the
1974 graduates here at our event.
These pioneers led the way for what was to
become CSUB Nursing.*



Honoring our 50th Graduating Class



The Class of 2024 has 58 student graduates. This amazing group of diverse men and women will now begin serving our community and beyond.



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Thank you to our
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Adventist Health
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*Adventist Health congratulates
CSUB Nursing on 50 years of
providing exceptional nurses to
our community!*



Thank you to our
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to our community!*



Thank you to our SILVER SPONSORS



Clinica Sierra Vista is proud to sponsor CSUB's 50th Nursing Anniversary Event.

We believe health care is a right, not a privilege. We look forward to working together to create a healthier community.

ABOUT CLINICA SIERRA VISTA

Clinica Sierra Vista is a comprehensive non-profit healthcare organization serving the primary medical, dental, and behavioral health needs of more than 200,000 people in Kern and Fresno Counties. We are proud to offer comprehensive programs and services to California patients since 1971.



Learn About Our Mission, Programs, Services, and More!

CLINICASIERRAVISTA.ORG

Proudly working as one for a healthier today and tomorrow.

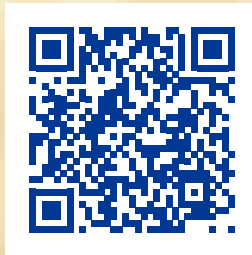




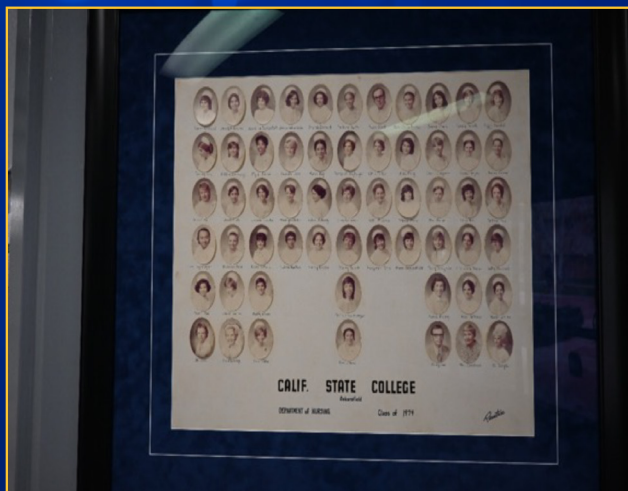
Call to Action!

***How can you get involved at
CSUB Nursing?***

- Mentoring
- Standardized Patients
- Global Outreach
- Donation



Donate today!



In the 50 years that California State University, Bakersfield Department of Nursing has served the community, almost 2,500 men and women have graduated from our program. Our graduates have become leaders in our local health care agencies shaping health care policy and improving health outcomes for our citizens. Thank you to the students that trusted us with their nursing education. Thank you to our local hospitals that supported our clinical rotations, thank you to the faculty that invested their knowledge into their students, and thank you to our administration at CSUB for their ongoing support of our program. As alumni, please get involved and be part of your alma mater, ***Go `Runners!***