

hope FOR THE FUTURE

Dr. Kathleen Williamson set her sights on nursing at an early age. The recently appointed president and academic dean of the Mount Carmel College of Nursing was born into a family of six nurses spanning three generations, beginning with her grandmother. Their passion for the profession influenced her tremendously.

After spending a large part of her career as an ICU nurse and later working in home care, she turned to teaching. Today, the opportunity to educate individuals entering the profession is what gets her up in the morning. "Nurses can influence so many things," she said. "They have special powers in a lot of different places and a lot of different ways."

Vision for the College

In her new role, Dr. Williamson is committed to paving the way for others to be empowered so they can continue to maximize their skill sets. As part of that vision, she plans to focus on:

- Growth and enrollment: Making sure the college is meeting market demand by educating nurses that are needed in the community, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- Innovation: Using innovative strategies in the classroom and curriculum, as well as emerging technologies, to prepare students for the workplace.

Adapting to the Pandemic

Like most educational institutions, the college has been challenged with delivering education at a level of excellence in the midst of COVID-19. Because many faculty members had already been teaching online, Dr. Williamson created the Nightingale Faculty Fellows program, a mentor program in which five members of the faculty assist with remote teaching strategies, student engagement, and the application of emerging technologies for teaching and learning. "The opportunity to help each other in this environment has been a great asset," she said.

It Takes a Village

In addition to continuing its strong partnership with Mount Carmel Health System, the college works closely with other healthcare systems to ensure that graduates gain the necessary experience for a seamless transition to practice.

"We also partner with other healthcare and community entities to help students balance their experience so they understand the whole care continuum," Dr. Williamson explained. "And we work with various community leaders and nurses in leadership positions to ensure best-practice initiatives."

The current redevelopment of the Franklinton community, the long-time home of Mount Carmel College of Nursing, is also an important component of the college's future. The ongoing revitalization on and around campus has the opportunity to impact the college by providing additional amenities — commercial, residential and social — and transform the community into a vibrant, urban setting.

The Promise of Hope

Most would agree that 2020 has been a challenging year. Yet despite the challenges, nursing students at the college offer a promise of hope for the future. "What we do at the college will continue to influence the care that's provided in whatever setting our students choose to work," Dr. Williamson said. "If you walk away from here, based on our core values, the care you provide will be quality, evidence-based care." That alone may be reason for hope.

"The journey you have as a nurse can take you in so many different places and directions. It's a great profession and a great journey."

— DR. KATHLEEN WILLIAMSON —



Support for the College

Earlier this year Dr. Williamson led the effort to win a five-year, \$2 million grant that will benefit the school's development of a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) residency and preceptor training programs. The FNP training will provide an opportunity for students who have graduated to be in a residency program for one year and work with a preceptor at our partner sites (Mount Carmel Medical Group, Heart of Ohio, and Lower Light Christian Center). This program supports the development of strong, mutually beneficial academic-clinical alliances.

Legacy of Learning

Under Dr. Williamson's leadership, the college recently kicked off its Legacy of Learning campaign to support student scholarships, student emergency needs, and faculty innovation. "This will help our college move forward into the future," Dr. Williamson said. "The campaign, which launched on the college's Founders Day, is an opportunity to continue the school's legacy into future generations."