



# UTRGV School of Nursing Newsletter Fall 2024

## Message from Dean Dr. Lilia Fuentes



To the Graduating Class of Fall 2024:

As we gather to celebrate the graduation of the Cohort of 2024, I am filled with immense pride and joy. This moment marks the culmination of your hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the noble profession of nursing. Throughout your journey, you have demonstrated resilience, compassion, and steadfast commitment to excellence. Today, as you prepare to step into the world as professional nurses, I encourage you to reflect on the Nightingale Pledge, which has guided our profession for generations. This pledge is a testament to our duty to uphold the highest standards of care, to practice our profession faithfully, and to devote ourselves to the welfare of those entrusted to our care.

Florence Nightingale's legacy continues to inspire us to strive for excellence in all that we do. As you embark on your professional careers, remember that you are part of a proud tradition of nurses who have made a profound impact on healthcare and society. Embrace the challenges and opportunities that come your way, knowing that you are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and support to succeed.

As you move forward, carry with you the values of integrity, compassion, and excellence that define our profession. You are the future of nursing, and I have no doubt that you will continue to make a difference in the lives of your patients and communities. Congratulations on your remarkable achievement, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.



***Congratulations to Dr. Roda Galang for getting an AARP award funding to support the peer-to-peer mentoring program***

Dr. Roda S. Galang has been awarded an AARP grant to support the Dean's initiative for student success through an innovative peer-to-peer mentoring program. This grant is a testament to Dr. Galang's dedication to enhancing student success and fostering a supportive learning environment in our School of Nursing. Her vision for peer mentoring aligns perfectly with our commitment to providing students with the resources and guidance needed to thrive academically and professionally.

Dr. Galang's peer-to-peer mentoring program will leverage the expertise and experience of senior students to support and guide their junior peers. This initiative not only promotes academic excellence but

also builds a strong sense of community and collaboration among our students. We are confident that this program will be sustainable and have a lasting positive impact on student outcomes and are excited to see the transformative changes it will bring. Congratulations, Dr. Galang, on this well-deserved recognition and achievement.

***To our Graduating Peer mentors.***

Thank you for fostering a supportive environment where knowledge, skills, and best practices in learning are shared. This relationship not only improves academic performance but also enhances the confidence of your mentees. Your dedication and commitment are remarkable.



## Lucas Carney



Hey there! My name is Lucas Carney, and I am a fourth-semester nursing student in the Student Success Initiative Mentoring program. Believe it or not, I wasn't always interested in healthcare. I had full intentions of becoming a firefighter and only got exposed to medicine through an EMT-Basic course I had to take to complete my firefighting certification. However, that course quickly opened my eyes. I wanted to be a paramedic. I put my career aspirations as a firefighter on pause, deciding to volunteer in Edinburg while I went through the Paramedic Associate's program at STC. I worked in EMS for some time during the COVID-19 pandemic but realized I wanted more than the pre-hospital setting. I didn't just want to stabilize people enough to get them to the hospital; I wanted to see them improve! Becoming a nurse seemed like the best way for me to be a participant in long-term health, and that's what I decided to do. My hope as a mentor is to provide other students with the resources and advice I had always wanted when I first started out. Nursing school is a big task, and it's always great to have a strong support system invested in your success!

Hello everyone! My name is Yaritzi Flores, and I'm currently a 4th semester student mentor. Throughout my life, I have always had an interest in medicine and healthcare. Through volunteer and shadowing opportunities, I realized that the patient care involved in nursing was the perfect fit for me. Working at the university as a tutor and Peer-Led Team Learning leader helped me realize that I also enjoyed guiding others to success, especially when they are uncertain of their own skills and potentials. Regarding nursing mentoring, having once been in the mentee's shoes, I understand the challenges, stress, and uncertainties that come with pursuing a nursing career. Becoming a mentor allows me to share my knowledge and personal insight with mentees, thus hopefully enhancing their learning and confidence as they continue their nursing journey.

## Yaritzi Flores



## Megan Stuart



My name is Megan Stuart, and I'm happily married with five dogs who keep life exciting! I earned my first bachelor's degree in animal science and a master's degree in biomedical science from Texas A&M University. My passion for healthcare has always been the driving force behind my career aspirations. Growing up, I dreamed of becoming a physician, but during my time working in clinics and hospitals during the COVID pandemic, I was profoundly inspired by the incredible impact nurses have on patients' lives. That experience led me to realize that nursing was the perfect fit for me. Now, I'm on the verge of graduating with my second bachelor's degree, this time in Nursing, and I couldn't be more excited to take the next step toward my goal of becoming a Nurse Practitioner. As a mentor to at-risk nursing students, I've been fortunate to guide and support their academic journeys, helping them build confidence, improve retention, and achieve success in their studies. I'm eager to make meaningful contributions to the nursing field by combining my love for learning, teaching, and empowering others on their healthcare journeys.



## America Alvear

My name is America Alvear. For my last semester, I had the privilege of being a mentor. Being a mentor was rewarding and impactful experience that allows you to guide and support other nursing students. Whether it was giving advice or hearing about their experiences, it was a nice experience to be a part of. I plan to be a Pediatric nurse and aspire to be a nurse that can provide guidance and support to my fellow



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## Leslie Avendano



My name is Leslie Avendano. I'm married to my college sweetheart, and we have a 3-year-old son who has brought such beautiful technicolor to our lives. I earned my Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2018 with plans to pursue a medical degree, but my path in healthcare took an unexpected turn when I decided to take a break from school and help run the family business. In August 2023, I was accepted into the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, which has been both challenging and rewarding. Joining the Student Success Mentorship Program has provided invaluable insights that will support my goal of becoming a CRNA in the future, and I've found it deeply fulfilling to serve and support fellow nursing students guiding them in their journey to success.

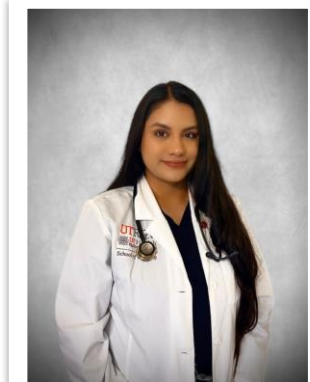
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As a nursing student, being part of the Nursing Peer Mentor Program has been one of the most rewarding experiences. Mentoring other students has taught me so much about leadership and communication, and it's been amazing to watch them grow and feel more confident. I'm passionate about always learning and plan to keep building my skills, especially in the critical care unit where I plan to work, so I can give my future patients the best care possible. I also hope to inspire other nurses the way my mentors have inspired me, creating a positive and supportive environment in healthcare.

## Citlaly Barragan



## Oshanna Cabrialess



Hello, my name is Oshanna Marie Cabrialess. I had the privilege of working as an emergency room scribe for the past six years. During this time, I discovered the profound impact of nursing and the beauty of connecting with patients through compassionate care. I also found that nursing enables me to care for others while also empowering my family to overcome health challenges. As a nursing student, I embraced opportunities to bridge classroom concepts with real-world applications in my academic work and clinical experiences. Through the Student Success Mentorship Program, I was honored to share the knowledge and skills I have gained, guiding and inspiring fellow nursing students on their journey to achieving their dreams. Looking ahead, I am dedicated to advancing my education to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. I hope to continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those I meet. I am driven by the belief that each encounter is an opportunity to learn, grow, and uplift others on their path.

## Michael De Leon

My name is Michael De Leon, and I am from McAllen, Texas. I decided to enter nursing because I feel it is a gratifying job, because when you are done you can say that every day you work you helped someone feel better or get better. Hopefully beyond nursing school I aim to continue my education and currently have my sights set on becoming a CRNA. I took part in the Student Success Mentorship Program because I felt that I wanted to help my fellow classmates have a less stressful time navigating nursing school because I could help guide them to not make any mistakes I did.



## Eliza Duran



My name is Eliza Victoria Duran, and I am proud to be completing my Bachelor of Science in Nursing in December 2024. My passion for nursing began in high school when I earned my Certified Nurse Assistant certification, marking my first step into the healthcare field. This experience solidified my decision to pursue a career in nursing and inspired me to advance my education. After achieving my degree and licensure, I plan to specialize in Labor and Delivery nursing, where I can make a meaningful impact on families during some of their most significant moments. Additionally, I aspire to further my education by earning a Master's degree and becoming a Nurse Practitioner. Being part of the Student Success Mentorship program has been an incredibly rewarding experience. It has allowed me to support and inspire fellow nursing students who share the same passion for this field. I hope that my guidance has been valuable to my mentees this semester and will continue to positively influence their future goals.

## Rocio Figueroa

Hi everyone! My name is Rocio Figueroa, and I am 23 years old. I was born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley, and plan to give back to my community as a nurse helping those around me. My passion for nursing started in high school having the opportunity to care for others by visiting hospitals and nursing homes. Nursing school has given me the knowledge, skills, and unforgettable memories that I am deeply grateful for. These experiences have prepared me to better help others and make a meaningful impact on people's lives. Being a mentor in the Student Success Mentorship Program has strengthened my commitment to make a positive impact in the lives of others, as well as allowed me to help and support other nursing students reach their academic goals. After graduating, I aspire to become a newborn or pediatric nurse, to offer care and support for children and their families in need.



## Danielle Gomez



Hello everyone! My name is Danielle Gomez and I'm excited and blessed to become a registered nurse and help others! I've loved being able to mentor other nursing students and helping them navigate challenges that occur with nursing school. I believe it's important to provide guidance to others, especially in this field, as they could be your nurse one day! I chose a field that requires a life full of learning so regardless of the future, I'll be learning something new everyday! I plan on furthering my education by completing certifications that'll help me in my career and continuing school to become a Nurse Practitioner. My goal is to become a well-rounded and experienced nurse/provider to provide the best patient care possible and leave lasting impacts on people!

My name is Mayra Jimenez, and I am currently in my 4th semester of nursing school and part of the Student Success Initiative Mentoring Program. Throughout my life, I've always had a passion for nursing and a strong desire to help families during their most vulnerable moments. This mentoring program has allowed me to guide and support others on their journey. Being a mentor has strengthened my sense of purpose within the nursing profession and has allowed me to contribute to the growth and success of fellow nursing students. As I help others achieve their goals, I have also gained greater clarity and direction for my own professional aspirations. I aspire to become a pediatric or NICU nurse, where I hope to positively impact children's lives by providing compassionate and expert care. My goal is to support their health and well-being, contributing to a brighter and healthier future for them and their families.

## Mayra Jimenez





## Annette Lozano



Hello everyone! My name is Annette, and I am a traditional BSN student. This semester I have gotten to see how the Student Success Mentor Program truly benefits both mentors and mentees. For me, it was a rewarding experience that helped me improve my communication and time management skills. At the same time, I felt privileged to support my mentee in building greater confidence and resilience, both personally and academically. As I move forward in the nursing profession, I can see how the skills that I've gained through this program will not only enhance my own growth but also allow me to support and connect with future patients and colleagues. In the future, I hope to work in the ICU. Eventually, I plan to return to school and pursue my goal of becoming a Nurse Practitioner.

## Bessy Palestina Moreno

My name is Bessy Palestina Moreno, and I am 22 years old. After graduating from Port Isabel High School in 2020, I began pursuing my dream of becoming a nurse. While my initial passion was in women's health, my clinical experiences, especially in the ICU, ignited a love for critical care nursing. I remain dedicated to women's health advocacy but now aim to build a career in critical care and potentially pursue a master's degree. Through the Student Success Mentorship Program, I've had the privilege of helping my peers navigate challenges, manage stress, and stay motivated. This opportunity has been incredibly rewarding, and I am grateful for the chance to support my mentees as they work toward their goals.



## David Padron



Hello, my name is David Padron, and I am a 4th semester generic nursing student from Brownsville. Becoming a mentor has been a deeply fulfilling experience, as it allows me to support others in reaching their full potential. I believe everyone benefits from having someone who can provide guidance, clarity, and encouragement during challenging times. Having been in the same position as current nursing students, I wanted to share the lessons I've learned, from overcoming obstacles to embracing effective strategies for success. My goal as a mentor is to empower students with knowledge and confidence while fostering their growth as future nurses. I aspire to work in the ICU, where I can exemplify compassion, patience, ambition, and dedication. I aim to embody the caring and skilled nurse that God has called me to be. Lifelong learning is integral to my journey, and I plan to further my education to grow as a nurse and a leader in healthcare.

Hello, my name is Andrea Ramos, and I am a 4th semester traditional BSN student. I became interested in healthcare in high school when I volunteered at a local hospital. I became more interested in nursing when my dad got very sick and spent a few weeks in the hospital; when he was released, he needed a home health nurse. I was involved with my dad's care during his recovery and learned more about nursing from my dad's home health nurse. I'm very proud to say that I will be graduating with my BSN at 20 years old! I will be continuing my education in July of 2025 when I start my graduate education at the UTRGV School of Medicine. I hope that my nursing background will make me a more compassionate and well rounded clinician. Outside of academics, I have fun being involved with my sorority, Alpha Sigma Tau, and growing in my faith at the Newman Catholic Student Center. I became a mentor because I enjoy helping others succeed. Being a mentor has also helped me reinforce some of my knowledge from previous semesters. The friends I have made in nursing school have been instrumental in helping me do well in nursing school, and so I want to help other students in the same way.

## Andrea Ramos



## Jamie Rios



Hello! My name is Jamie, and I'm a 4th semester student mentor. My passion for nursing started with my interest in making a positive impact on people's lives. Through my experiences as a CNA, unit clerk, and nurse tech, I developed a strong foundation in patient care that confirmed nursing was the perfect path for me. Mentoring has become another passion of mine because I enjoy guiding others, especially those navigating the challenges and uncertainties of nursing school. Having once been in their shoes, I understand the hard work and stress it takes to succeed, and I strive to share my knowledge, experiences, and encouragement to help mentees build confidence and reach their goals in their nursing journey.

Hello everyone! My name is Alyssa Rodriguez. I am 22 years old and I am currently in my last semester of nursing school. Throughout my life I have always had the passion and desire for helping others. Seeing as I have been witness to friends and family members with chronic medical conditions receive exceptional medical care, my goal is to help individuals so that they may return to a productive life as others have done for my family. I am currently a nursing student mentor to two students in the semester below me. Seeing as I have been in their shoes, I understand the stress and uncertainty they feel with pursuing a nursing degree. As a mentor I support and guide them throughout their educational journey. I assist my mentees with preparation for exams and quizzes by organizing review sessions with them. I offer them emotional support and advice on handling stress, workload, and anxiety. This blend of mentorship experience and dedication to learning aligns with my vision of becoming a compassionate and knowledgeable nurse.

## Alyssa Rodriguez







## CREATING A STRONG FOUNDATION

*BSN Family Orientation -- Fall 2024*

***The journey through the UTRGV BSN program is a transformative experience, not just for the students but also their families. An audience of almost 100 students and family members made time to participate in the first BSN Family Orientation on August 20, 2024.***

Families were welcomed into an environment where they connected with faculty, representatives from local hospitals, and other families of incoming BSN students. The rigors of nursing school were made apparent to all in attendance. Students of current BSN cohorts presented on topics such as time management, expectations for clinicals, study tips, resources for student success, and self-care. Their parents chimed in about ways they support their children during their challenging school weeks. This goes to show that we respect the collaboration among faculty, parents, and students. By introducing families into the School of Nursing community, we hope to pave the way for a more enriching and successful experience.

### ***BSN Family Orientation: Fall 2024 Highlights***

The BSN Family Orientation was a resounding success, with 95% of attendees indicating they would recommend the event to others. Participants particularly appreciated the family testimonies, with one attendee noting, "It was nice to hear from parents about their child's experiences." Another highlighted, "The input from current students and parents was invaluable." The event garnered high satisfaction, with 85% of attendees "extremely satisfied" with the agenda and 75% "extremely satisfied" with the food. Attendees left with positive impressions, setting a strong foundation for their journey in the program.

### Fall 2024

BSN Family Orientation

DONUT forget it's Monday

Peer to Peer Mentoring

Nursing is an Art Therapy  
Session in Collaboration of  
UTRGV The Student Nursing  
Organization

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Faculty Achievements

## “Donut Forget It’s Monday”: Celebrating the 5th week of nursing school

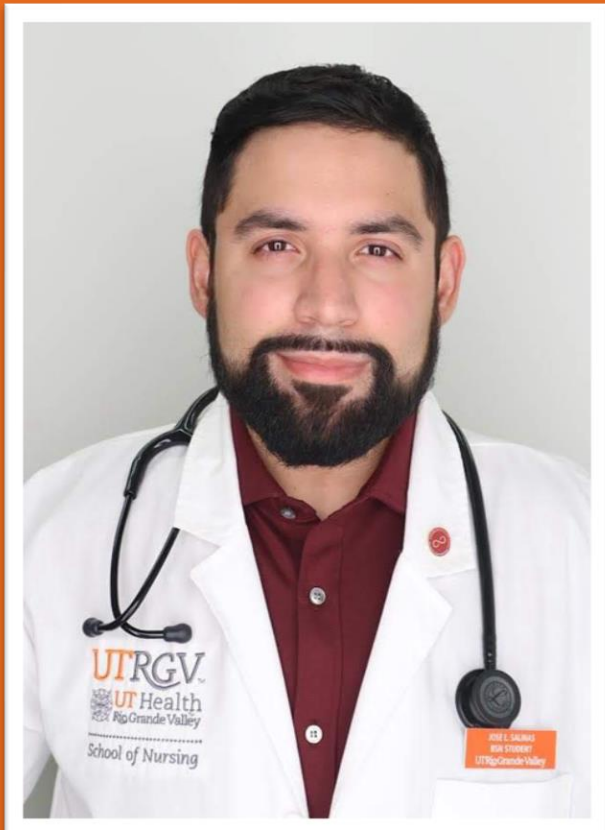
First semester students were treated to a celebratory donut following their first exam to mark their initial five weeks in nursing school. The School of Nursing faculty recognized the students for their hard work. Both the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses participated in the event!





## Nursing Tutor

### *A word from our Nursing Tutor...*



Hello! My name is Jose (Joey) Salinas, I am 26 years old and I currently work at Valley Baptist Brownsville Emergency Department as a Registered Nurse after I graduated from the 2nd degree ABSN program at UTRGV. I used to work at VBMC as a scribe after I graduated in 2020 with my bachelor's degree in biology from UTRGV and that is when I fell in love with the ED and why I chose to start my nursing career in that department.

I chose to become a tutor as I wanted to share my experiences while working as a RN and to prepare future nurses for their careers. Not only that but to help those who require additional support because as someone who successfully completed the program, I know nursing school is not easy and therefore, nobody should be ashamed to seek help. I am grateful to have the opportunity to help future nurses reach their goal and nothing makes me happier than when students come back to thank me as their grades have improved since receiving my advice and help.

### ***Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Program: Fall 2024 Insights***

Peer-to-peer mentoring has been a valuable resource for many students this semester. A significant majority found their mentors to be "extremely helpful," with one mentee highlighting, "My mentor provided study tips for different classes and helped me prioritize lecture topics." Another student shared, "they helped me exude confidence and showed me the ropes on how to be successful in Nursing School." Suggestions for improvement included better promotion of the program and expanding access to tutoring resources. Overall, the mentoring program has been a meaningful tool for guidance and academic success.



## Pumpkin Decorating Contest



The pumpkin decorating contest, hosted by the School of Nursing, was a lively and creative event, perfect for easing the stress of rigorous coursework. It brought together students from different semesters in the nursing program, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie. Everyone showcased their artistic skills by transforming pumpkins into whimsical, spooky, or humorous designs. The contest not only provided a fun break but also offered a chance to bond, share laughs, and enjoy the festive spirit, making it a memorable highlight in the nursing program.



Congratulations to our winner, Megan Stuart, whose creative Minion pumpkin took first place in the contest! Great job to everyone who participated and a big thank you to Dr. Galang who hosted the event!



## 4<sup>th</sup> Semester Community Engagement

Our mission is to engage and uplift the community by providing free, informative, accessible health services and resources through health fairs organized by nursing students approaching graduation. We are dedicated to fostering health education, promoting wellness, and encouraging preventative care while building strong connections between the nursing profession and the diverse communities we serve. Through compassionate care and collaboration, we aim to make a lasting impact on the health and well-being of individuals, preparing the next generation of nurses to lead with knowledge, empathy and service.



## Student Nurse Organization

### *A Semester of Growth, Advocacy, and Community Impact*

The Student Nurse Organization (SNO) at UTRGV demonstrated exceptional leadership, community engagement, and professional development. Under the guidance of President Kayla White, the organization reached new milestones while staying true to its mission of fostering growth among nursing students and making a positive impact in the Rio Grande Valley.

### *Community Service: Making a Difference Beyond the Classroom*

SNO members took their dedication to health and wellness into the community through a variety of service projects:

- Clinica Maria Luisa: Members volunteered at a community clinic located in Penitas at Proyecto Desarrollo Humano, assisting with essential healthcare services for underserved populations in the Rio Grande Valley.
- RGV Food Bank: Nursing students helped sort and distribute food to families in need, showcasing their commitment to combating food insecurity in the community.
- Gladys Porter Zoo: Members participated in health education initiatives and supported efforts to promote wellness and awareness during events at the zoo.
- 5K Events for Health Causes: SNO students lent their time and energy to multiple 5K runs, supporting health-related causes such as breast cancer awareness.

Through these service opportunities, SNO members embodied the values of compassion, service, and leadership that define the nursing profession.





## SON Faculty Achievements

The UTRGV School of Nursing highlights the recent achievements of our dedicated faculty who continue to drive excellence in nursing education and healthcare practice. We commemorate the members of our team that have contributed to important research, student involvement, and earned recognition for studies that address healthcare needs in the Rio Grande Valley. These accomplishments highlight our faculty's commitment to lead future nurses in their careers in healthcare.

### Folake Adelakun, DNP, MBA, HCA, MSN, BSN, RN, PHN, CNE



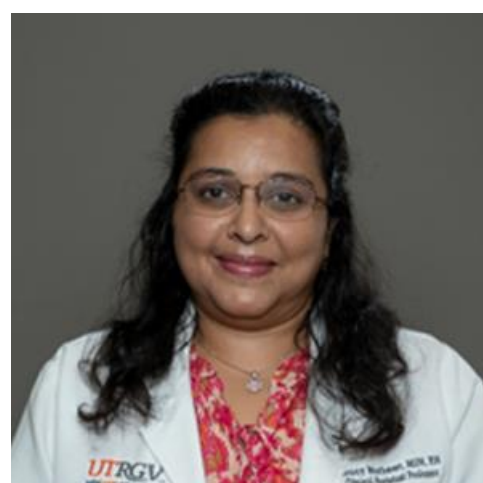
I have been teaching in nursing programs since 2010, drawing on my diverse clinical background in areas like med/surg, pediatrics, and public health. As a foreign-educated nurse, my research focuses on the integration of foreign-educated nurses into the U.S. healthcare system and their educational experiences. My passion is transcultural nursing, involving how culture impacts nursing, learning, and patient's care.

- WFN Women of Color Committee Chair
- Elected to Faculty Senate
- Served as Assistant Judge for Hidalgo County
- Published Nurses Burnout: An Enemy to Conquer at the National Association of Nigerian Nurses in North America Newsletter
- Nominated for the 2024 Best 25 Nurses of South Central Texas award by San Antonio Nursing Consortium
- Release of money for the grant I got to improve Primary Health Care Center in Nigeria from Association of Nigerian Nurses in North America.

Linda Eanes, EdD, RN  
Liji A. Mathew, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC  
Dalia Paul, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC  
Moncy Mathews, MSN, RN



Findings from a study by Dr. Linda Eanes, Dr. Liji Mathew, Dalia Paul, and Moncy Mathews & Betty Phillips, entitled Labor Nurses' Experiences During COVID-19 Pandemic published in MCN November/December 2024 highlights the nurses' ability to adjust to unprecedented and chaotic environments and underscores several factors influencing their resilience and job satisfaction. Dr. Eanes and Dr. Mathew presented their findings at a Sigma conference in Honolulu July 2024 and are scheduled to present at a Sigma conference in Arizona March 2025.



## Vanessa Hale, MSN



With a background in public policy, a passion for education, over 18 years' experience as a healthcare provider, Vanessa Hale is a perinatal registered nurse with one goal in mind... reduce perinatal morbidity and mortality in South Texas! Mrs. Hale is a graduate of the University of Texas Brownsville, the University of Texas Arlington, and Texas A&M International University, holding degrees in Nursing and Government. She is certified through NCC in inpatient obstetrics, obstetric and neonatal quality and safety, advanced fetal monitoring and will be seeking certification in obstetric emergencies this coming year.

- Conference 2025: Association of Women's Health Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)
- Dates: June 21-25, 2025
- Location: Orlando, Florida
- Podium Presentation: "Increasing Situational Awareness during Postpartum Hemorrhages"

## Carolina G. Huerta, EdD, RN, FAAN



Dr. Carolina G. Huerta received her BSN from Incarnate Word College, her MSN from University of Texas, Austin and her Doctorate in Education from Texas A& M University, College Station. She has been a member of the American Academy of Nursing since 2012 and has taught nursing for over 50 years.

- Nursing Member of the American Academy of Nursing Health Policy Conference Planning Committee
- The Health Policy Conference is one of the major annual events presented by the Academy.
- This year's conference took place in Washington, DC on October 31st through November 2nd.



## Kochurani Joseph, DNP, RN, MSN, FNP-BC

## Susamma Thomas, MSN, RN



Dr. Kochurani Joseph, an RN graduate of the Holy Family School of Nursing in India, has 38 years of clinical experience in high-acuity settings like ICUs and transplant units. She earned her BSN from American Sentinel University, FNP from Chamberlain University, and DNP from Touro University Nevada. Since 2018, Dr. Joseph has been a dedicated faculty member at UTRGV, shaping the next generation of nursing professionals.

- Conference: 2025 National Nurse Educator Summit
- Dates: April 22-25, 2025
- Location: Orlando, Florida
- Poster Presentation: “Teach, Learn, Share” Method to Reduce Anxiety and Improve Clinical Competency of Nursing Students



Ms. Susamma Thomas is a Clinical Associate Professor who received her BSN from the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India, and MSN from the University of Texas Pan American, USA. She has been a nurse for over 40 years and has taught nursing for more than 25 years. She has been a member of the AACN since 2015.

## Eloisa G. Taméz, PhD, RN, FAAN



I have been a registered nurse since age 21 and remained in service from 1956 to 2020. I have been a staff nurse, head nurse, supervisor, Assistant Chief Nurse, and Chief Nurse Executive for a span of 44 years. I transitioned to Academia in 2020 as Assistant Professor at UTPA and in 2004 transferred to University of Texas Brownsville (UTB) as Graduate Program Director. I was Interim Associate Dean for the College of Nursing and received promotions to Associate Professor and then Professor. In 2015, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) hired me as Professor. At UTRGV, I have held various positions of leadership. On February 1, 2025, I will have been in the University of Texas System 25 years. I have been in active nursing practice for 69 years.

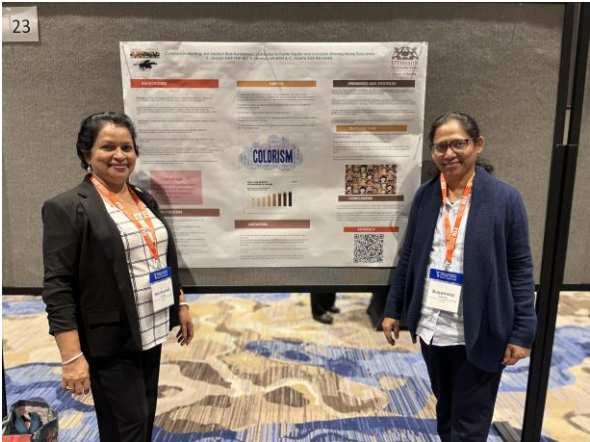
- Reappointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Disability and Compensation National Advisory Committee
- September 27, 2024: Latina Trailblazer Award by the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas, State
- October 9, 2024: Veteran of the Month, Cameron County, Guadalupe Ruiz Commissioner, Local
- November 3, 2024: Appointed to a national committee for the Academy of Nursing by President Dr. Linda Scott; Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity for a 2-year term: National
- Nominated to Distinguished Alumni, University of Texas at Austin
- On behalf of the NAHN Communications Committee, selected as

## James Waters, DNP, APRN, FNP, NRCME



I started working at UTRGV in August of 2023. I have been a RN for 30 years. I live here with my wife, Lexie, who is also a RN.

- Simulation Director.
- Chair of the Bernice E. Fowler Endowment.
- Dr. Salinas and I received a seed grant to develop a flipped classroom for Mental Health using simulation.





## Newsletter Editors

Dr. Roda Galang  
 Dania Ochoa MSN, BSN, RN  
 Lucas Carney  
 Rocio Figueroa  
 Mayra Jimenez  
 Annette Lozano  
 Jamie Rios  
 Megan Stuart



### School of Nursing Programs

#### Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN):

- **Generic BSN:** Combined, face-to-face and online courses
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Accelerated BSN:** Can be completed in four consecutive semesters
- **RN to BSN:** Accelerated online program with 7-week courses (modules) to meet the busy RN's schedule

**MSN Family Nurse Practitioner:** 48 credit hours and 800 clinical hours (60% online, about 28% hybrid 12% face-to-face classes which are offered in the evening once/week)

**Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner:** 15 credit hours (12 hours face-to-face and 3 online) and 605 clinical hours

**Post Master's Certificate Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner:** 12-month 100% online program with 18 credit hours and 520 clinical hours

**Doctorate of Nursing Practice:** 45-credit hours post-master's curriculum delivered 100% online

Competitive Scholarships are available. For more information about our programs, please scan the QR code.



Visit [www.utrgv.edu/nursing](http://www.utrgv.edu/nursing) to see the scheduled School of Nursing Information Sessions