

Meet the Faculty:

Hello, I am Angie Anderson BSN, RN, NCSN

I am currently the Director of Nursing Services at Research To Practice, working with local boards of education to support school nurses and best practice in school health services programs. I have been a School Nurse for 24 years. Retiring in 2019 from the lead nurse role at Mexico Public Schools, I am now enjoying many opportunities in mentoring and supporting health staff in schools across Missouri.

There are several aspects of school nursing I enjoy. I love working with the students to make healthy choices for a long life. It is rewarding to work with the parents and students to meet the medical needs and provide opportunity for educational success. A bonus in school nursing is working with the staff in the school district by promoting wellness and coordinating student care. It is a challenging career but so rewarding. We are the chosen ones!



Hello, I am Natalie Botkin, BSN, RN, NCSN

I have been a school nurse for 13 years and I am the District Health Services & Wellness Coordinator at Republic R-III School District in southwest Missouri. I Supervise 11 Health Services staff (8 RN's, 1 LPN, 2 HCA's) that care for our approximately 4,900 students in 8 buildings (Early Childhood, Alternative Secondary School, Adaptive Functioning Skills Classes).

My favorite thing about being a school nurse is the children. To see a smile on a child's face is like sunshine on a rainy day. I support the commitment that all children need to be healthy to be educated and educated to be healthy (~Former Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders).



Hello! I am Beth Cameron, M.Ed., R.D.H.

Contact information: beth.cameron@health.mo.gov

I am an Oral Health Consultant for Preventive Services Program (PSP) with the MO DHSS Office of Dental Health and a Registered Dental Hygienist in Private Practice. I have been an Oral Health Consultant for the PSP for 3 years and a dental hygienist for 5 years. Prior to that, I taught in the public school setting for 4 years, so I have seen firsthand how vital the school nurse is in the health of our children.

The school nurse is a key player in the implementation of the PSP. They are essential for activities such as gathering permission slips, organizing supplies, and overseeing the actual event. I enjoy seeing the passion they bring to the program, as they work to ensure that no child falls through the cracks when it comes to oral health.



Marjorie Cole, MSN, RN

Hello,

I am Marge Cole. I am your State School Nurse Consultant. I work in the Department of Health and Senior Services in the Bureau of Community Health and Wellness. I graduated with a diploma in nursing in the early 60s. I later got my BSN and then my MSN. I found my passion, school nursing in the 80s. I worked as a school nurse for eleven years in St. Louis County Special School District before coming to the Department. When I became a school nurse, there were no policies, protocols or orientation for those of us new to school nursing. Folks seemed to do what the nurse before them had done. Somehow, those of us working in schools found one another. We began networking, strengthening our local and state school nurse association; lobbied for a voice at the state level to inform us of best practices and for more school nurses. We have come a long way; but just in time! More children than ever are attending school with complex health conditions as well as social/emotional needs. I am pleased to be a part of the Health Office Orientation and the opportunity to share with you evidence-based and evidence informed practices and guidelines to assist you in your day-to-day practice. HOO is just the beginning of your journey. Consider this a "survey course". We are just hitting the highlights of what you need to know "right now". Please know, as you become familiar with this content, we are here to help you with the next steps.

My most favorite tag line: Children are the hope for our future; and we are the hope for theirs.



Hello! I am Deb Cook, RN.

I am the Lead Nurse in Kennett Public Schools. I have been a school nurse for 25 years and love my job. I have a staff of 4 RN and 1 Social Worker, and we serve approximately 1,900 students in 4 buildings.

I find it difficult to determine one favorite thing about school nursing because there are so many aspects of the job to love. One aspect that does stand out is the opportunity to empower parents with the knowledge and resources to provide their children with the tools necessary to be happy, healthy, and successful in the classroom. Seeing these results always warms my heart! This can stem from simply providing resources for a vision referral or helping to secure resources for a much needed wheelchair. From nursing in the emergency room, teaching obstetrics, medical office nursing and others, I have loved them all, but none compare to being a school nurse and experiencing the reward of seeing children overcome some of the many mountains they encounter in life.

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Hello, I am Deb Funk BSN, RN and I am the Director of Practice for the Missouri State Board of Nursing. I have been a member of the Board staff since November 2006. My position has evolved over time to include but not be limited to: answer inquiries about nursing and the laws impacting nurses in MO, assist with investigating complaints and discipline cases against nurses, collaborate with nursing associations and stakeholders across the state, opportunities to participate at the national level in conferences and on committees representing the Missouri State Board of Nursing, assist with surveying entry level schools of nursing and assist with writing legislation impacting nursing in



Missouri.

In my nursing career, I have worked in the hospital setting, at the bedside and in management, in areas including med/surg, ambulatory surgery, ICU, Stepdown, and Cardiac Cath Lab. I have also served as a Girl Scout Camp Nurse and a volunteer with the Holts Summit Fire Protection District providing on scene rehab for the firefighters.

Hello! I am Jessica Gerdes, BA MSN, RN, retired School Nurse.

"It's the hardest job you'll ever love." Those were the words of the school nurse at my children's school when I mentioned I might want to follow in her footsteps. It didn't take me long after I landed her job when she retired, that I learned what she meant. Is it hard? You bet. Will you love it? I'm sure of it as so many of your colleagues across the country do. Remember these words the first time a student says to you, "now I know why I need to wait between my puffs"; the first time a parent says, "no one ever explained it to me so well", the first time a colleague says to you, "I think if it hadn't been for you that student would have slipped between the cracks" and the first time an administrator says, "don't ever leave us."

I came to nursing as a second career, after a B.A. degree in journalism and political science, and a very fulfilling career for 10 years, but I didn't personally feel fulfilled, as if I had truly helped anyone. So on a suggestion from a friend who was a nurse, I obtained a BSN and worked as a pediatric nurse at a teaching hospital, a public health nurse at a county health department, and a nurse at a pediatrician's office. I had before that been a nurse in a nursing home and done home care. But it was school nursing where I felt my "home". I worked as a school nurse in four elementary schools in suburban Chicago, as the school health program manager at the county health department, and after obtaining a Master's degree in school health nursing, I returned to my home state of North Carolina to be the state school nurse consultant there. A position as state school nurse consultant in Illinois brought me back to where my grown children lived. I retired from that job in 2018 but with little rest joined Lewis University as adjunct faculty in the school nurse master's program. I serve as chair of legislative affairs for the Illinois Association of School Nurses, bringing me full circle back to my political science degree. Currently, though, the hardest job I love is being grandma to my 2 year old granddaughter and soon to a second little grandbaby girl.



Hello, I am Teri Hansen, BSN, RN, MLA, NCSN

I have been a school nurse for 18 years and am the Health Services Coordinator/RN for Lee's Summit R-7 School District. I am the lead nurse for our health room staff of about 55 -- RNs, LPNs and health room aides providing health services for our 18,400 Students in 28 Educational Buildings: 3 High Schools, 3 Middle Schools, 18 Elementary Schools, 2 Alternative Schools, Summit Technology Academy (pre-college classes in medicine, STEM. Students come from multiple neighboring districts), and 1 Early Education Center.

One of the best things about being a School Nurse is the relationships you build with students, parents and other district staff members. You truly feel part of the community family. I love getting to know the student's we see on an everyday basis and feeling like we are making a difference in their lives!



Hello, I am Ardith Harmon, MSN, RN

I am the Lead Nurse at Clark County R-1 Schools in northeast Missouri. I have been a School Nurse for a total of 9 years, experiencing the differences of school nursing in a larger metropolitan school district to a small rural school district. I am currently in a district of about 1,000 students serving as the school nurse (K-12) for 3 different buildings while supervising 3 other nurses and providing training and guidance for building secretaries that also cover the health rooms.

I love that I get to be a part of the students and families lives in their setting. I get to help them manage their chronic diseases in real life and help them participate in whatever activity they want to be in. In our small district, I get to see the kids progress from elementary to graduating high school. I love to be a small part of their success story. The hugs, high fives and smiles you get everyday are an added bonus!

Dr. Seuss says "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." This quote sums up what this past school year has taught me about school nursing. I've always loved school nursing but when I suddenly lost the connection with my students, staff and families in March 2020, I realized how much I truly valued my moments each and every day at school. I realized that I'm a small part of this amazing thing called a public school system that provides food, healthcare, love, positive affirmations, stability, and creates special memories for students and families. This is an amazing job that gives you opportunities to be an ongoing part of all of these people's lives. I hope you love it as much as I do!



Hello, I am Peggy Karleskint BSN, RN

I have been a nurse for 40 years, a School Nurse for 25 years, and currently have the responsibility for 2 elementary buildings and the Early Childhood Center at Northwest R-1 School District in Jefferson County. I assist to help manage the district's employee wellness program and am part of a team of RNs and Healthroom Assistants covering our 10 buildings with approximately 6,500 students. I am the President of Missouri Association of School Nurses, 2019-2021 and have held a variety other positions within MASN.

My favorite thing about being a school nurse... I love that every day brings something new! Just when you think you've seen it all..... Something new pops up! There is always something new to learn!



Hello, I am Katherine Park, MSN, RN, NCSN.

I have been in school nursing since 2001 and I currently work as an elementary school nurse in the Parkway School District in St. Louis. School nursing for me has been rewarding, and has held my interest all these years because I have never felt like I have mastered it yet. For this reason, I love school nursing and all the challenges it brings! I have been a nationally certified school nurse since 2005; a CPR instructor since 2010; and obtained my master's degree in Public Health/ School Health nursing in 2011. During my master's studies I focused on type 1 diabetes in elementary-aged students, completing my thesis on this subject. In conjunction with this topic of study, I adopted the American Diabetes Association's diabetes training program for my district in 2009 and created a training toolkit to assist with the training of non-medical school staff.



Since this time, over 100 non-medical school staff members throughout my district have attended my training program. Also since 2009, I have given presentations on diabetes and school nursing for the Missouri Coordinated School Health Conference, many area school districts, the Parkway School District Board of Education, Missouri Association of School Nurses (MASN), Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and the American Diabetes Association Expert Panel. I have also presented at the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) conference in 2016 and 2018. In April of 2020, I received the Missouri School Nurse of the Year Award from MASN. Currently, I am working on a doctoral degree through University of Missouri – Columbia with an expected graduation date of May 2021. My focus during this program continues to be type 1 diabetes, its management in schools, and its impact on the social and emotional well-being of parental caregivers.

Hello! I am Lynelle Paro, the Assistant Bureau Chief for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Bureau of Immunizations. I also continue to serve as the coordinator of the school and day care immunization programs. I have been with DHSS for 24 years, working in a variety of roles and programs.

My favorite thing about my role in the Bureau of Immunizations is working with the amazing school nurses that are caring for Missouri's school children. I enjoy talking with and providing assistance as needed to the school nurses and look forward to serving as a resource for many more years!



Bridgit Patterson – Program Director, Epilepsy Foundation of Missouri and Kansas
Hello! My name is Bridgit Patterson. I pursued a career in Electroneurodiagnostics after my son was diagnosed with epilepsy. I received my training from the Institute of Health Sciences in Hunt Valley, Maryland and completed 820 clinical hours between Liberty Hospital in Liberty, Missouri and Rowe Neurology Institute in Lenexa, Kansas. My career has led me to perform and analyze 72-hour brain studies for over 17 different doctor groups throughout Missouri and Kansas. In 2015, I accepted the Program Director position at the Epilepsy Foundation of Missouri and Kansas. I am a member of ASET, The Neurodiagnostic Society and had the privilege to co-teach programs in Texas with the Larry Head Institute. I am dedicated to legislative advocacy and work diligently to secure funding for education and various issues surrounding medications, such as, coverage, cost and access. I am passionate about sharing my knowledge and experiences with others. In the school setting, I strive to provide seizure education and bring best practices, programs and resources to help school nurses better understand epilepsy in efforts to keep children safe, healthy and ready to learn. I currently reside in Liberty, Mo with my son, Colby and my daughter, Micaela.



Hello, I am Sally Schoessler, MEd, BSN, RN, AE-C and the Director of Education, Allergy & Asthma Network

I have been in school nursing and health education for over 25 years working as a school nurse in public and private schools at the elementary and secondary levels. After serving as the State School Nurse Consultant in New York, I then served as a Director of Nursing Education at the National Association of School Nurses. Now at Allergy & Asthma Network, I oversee educational initiatives, publications and resource development.

I will always identify as a school nurse – it’s a part of nursing that incorporates wellness, emergency care, chronic health management, adult and pediatric care and so much more. I have always worked hard to truly “see” each unique student and help each one learn to manage their health concerns and live a full and healthy life.

On School Nurse Day one year, I was reminded of why I love this profession. I received a card from a 4th Grade boy who was on every psychiatric medication available – and of the 5 people in his family, no one’s last names matched. He gave me a ruffled, handmade card that said, “You heal my future.” School nurses make a difference every day.



Hello! I am Cathy Schlotzhauer BSN RN CIC

I am an Infection Control Professional in the Infection Control Department at the University of Missouri Health Care System, and a former school nurse. I have also previously worked with Marge in the School Health Program at DHSS.

I have been an Infection Control Professional at MU Health Care for the last 12 years. I was a school nurse for 7 years at New Franklin R-1 with 500 students and also supported 2 LPNs in 2 public schools and 3 parochial schools in Howard County for an additional 615 students.

The variety of experiences I had as a school nurse was surprising and amazing to me. I loved the opportunity to have a positive influence on children from all walks of life, in sickness and in health. “Educating the educators” aka school staff about various health conditions and therapeutic approaches seemed to be very well received. School nursing gave me a chance to really get to know my community; families’ names are now faces and town history.



Hello! I am Barb Spaw and I work in the School Health Program at the MO Department of Health and Senior Services. I have worked as a public health nurse in a variety of program projects and roles in public health nursing, supporting the children and families in Missouri for over 20 years. In the School Health Program, I work with our State School Nurse Consultant to provide resources, training and best practice guidance to our school nurses across the state. Our School Health Program also focuses on promoting the goals of school health and advocating for the value of school nurses and health services programs in our schools through data gathering, policy review and sharing with our leadership in the state.

Barbara Spaw, BSN RN Barbara.Spaw@health.mo.gov



Hello, I am Stacey Whitney MSN, RN, NCSN.

I am the Lead Nurse at Carl Junction R-1 School District in Jasper County.

I have over 25 years of professional nursing experience as a registered nurse with school health as my clinical area of specialty. My professional interests focus on medical care and dental health for the underserved and providing professional development opportunities for working nurses.

I was accepted as a Johnson & Johnson School Health Leadership fellow and mentor in 2013-14 and earned national certification in school nursing in 2017. I served on the Missouri Association of School

Nursing Executive Committee as Secretary in 2015-17, Education Chair in 2019-20 and will assume the role of National Association of School Nursing Director for Missouri in 2021. I have been an adjunct faculty member at Grand Canyon University's online RN-BSN program for 5 years teaching Professional Dynamics, Family Centered Health Promotion, and Concepts of Community and Public Health, and also recently co-authored several eBook chapters for GCU's RN-BSN program.

I like to tell my colleagues that school nursing is the best kept secret in nursing! I have worked in several areas throughout my career and I cannot think of any other specialty that is as rewarding as being a school nurse. I truly love the children and their families that I serve. The clinical skill set required along with the ability to work autonomously are what really specializes the practice. I find it so rewarding to be able to connect families with needed health resources for their child(ren).



Hello! I am Dr. Linda C. Wolfe, RN.

I practiced school nursing for over 30 years, during which I worked in an elementary school and then at the Delaware State Department of Education as the State School Nurse Consultant. Having left the state office, I am the current Data Chair of NASSNC (National Association of State School Nurse Consultants) and past president of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN). I hold a bachelor degree in nursing and a doctorate in educational leadership. I love to present and to write, with my favorite topics being school nursing history and school nursing standards.

I find that the people and the things you love the most are often the most difficult to describe. Such is the case with school nursing. It has been more than a profession to me. It has been my passion, my heart, my mission in life to find ways to enhance and protect the lives of children through the practice of school nursing. I can think of no other profession that allows you to touch and impact the future in such a personal, supportive and nurturing way. I knew I had found my calling when I showed up as a "substitute school nurse" those many years ago.

