



NURSING

PINNING CEREMONY

SPRING CLASS OF 2024



Nicole Wertheim
College of Nursing
& Health Sciences

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE

(Patterned after the original Florence Nightingale Pledge)

With full knowledge of the responsibilities that I am undertaking,
I solemnly pledge myself to the service of humanity
and will endeavor to practice my profession with conscious and dignity.

I will maintain by all the means in my power
to honor the noble traditions of my profession.

The total health of my patients will be my first concern.

I will hold in confidence all personal matters coming to my knowledge.

I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race or
social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient.

I will endeavor to keep my professional knowledge and skills
at the highest level and give my support and cooperation to all
members of the healthcare team.

With full awareness of my qualifications and limitations, I
will do my utmost to maximize the potential of the nursing
profession and to uphold and advance its standards.

I will maintain the utmost respect for humanity.

I make these promises solemnly, freely,
and upon my honor.



THE HISTORY OF FIU'S NICOLE WERTHEIM COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

Caring. Culturally competent. Trailblazing. Dedicated. Compassionate.

These are the attributes of the faculty, students, and alumni who are the lifeblood of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences at Florida International University in Miami.

The Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences was created in 2006 with the joining of the FIU School of Nursing and the School of Health Sciences, each bringing with it more than 30 years of academic distinction. This young, vibrant, and dynamic institution is focused on advancing the quality and spectrum of care through the highest levels of education, training, research, and leadership. The Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences has more than 9,000 nursing alumni who have gone on to serve communities locally and globally.

On September 25, 2013, the futures of Florida International University's nursing programs were transformed when South Florida philanthropists Dr. Herbert Wertheim and Nicole Wertheim presented a \$10 million gift to endow and name the college as we know it today, The Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences. This record-setting gift embodied the Wertheim family's commitment to clinical and interdisciplinary research, preventive health care, and the belief that the best health care is delivered when health professionals work together as a team.

Our college is one of the founding units of the Academic Health Center at FIU, built on an inter-professional approach to healthcare education that mirrors the new paradigm of today's healthcare system. Today, the college is making important strides to enhance practice and policy through interdisciplinary collaboration, state-of-the-art technology, and resources, integration of real-world training in the curricula, and programs of research designed to make a difference in patient care and advocacy.

Our panthers are a reflection of a multicultural student body, and our faculty and stellar staff reflect the diversity of our South Florida community. This diversity, illustrative of changing demographics across the country, provides students with a unique perspective and distinct set of capabilities to address the healthcare delivery and health access concerns of minority and underserved populations.

Our family of professors, academic leaders, staff, and students help the nursing profession evolve to optimally meet society's health care needs.

HISTORY OF THE NURSING PINNING CEREMONY



The pinning ceremony is a prominent nursing school tradition, as it signifies one's official induction into the solidarity and fellowship of nurses. The ceremony is rich with symbolic representation of both the values and ideals of Florence Nightingale as well as the core principles of the nursing profession. The history of this rite of passage can be traced all the way back to the Crusades of the 12th century. During this time, the Knights of the Order of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist tended to injured and infirmed Crusaders. When new monks were inducted into the order, they vowed to serve these sick soldiers in a ceremony where each monk was given a Maltese cross, the first badges given to those who nurse.

The modern ceremony dates back to the 1860s, when Florence Nightingale was awarded the Red Cross of St. George in recognition for her tireless service to the injured during the Crimean War. Florence Nightingale chose to extend this honor to her most outstanding graduate nurses by presenting each of them with a medal for excellence. The Wolverton Royal Hospital in England adopted the tradition of presenting all graduates with a badge. However, the first pin was presented to the graduating class of 1880 at the Bellevue Hospital School of Nursing in New York City. By 1916, the practice of pinning new graduates was standard throughout the U.S. FIU and the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences have celebrated this tradition throughout the history of the Nursing Program and will continue to celebrate nursing scholastic achievements while commemorating the common goals of all nurses around the world.

ORDER OF CEREMONY

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

ERNEST GRAHAM CENTER BALLROOMS, MODESTO MAIDIQUE CAMPUS

PRESIDING & INTRODUCTION OF PLATFORM PARTY	Jorge A. Valdés DNP, CRNA, APRN, FAANA <i>Interim Dean & Fellow</i>
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Bryan Severe, <i>Traditional BSN Student</i>
ALMA MATER	Catherin Meza
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	Kenneth A. Jessell <i>President</i>
REMARKS BY TRADITIONAL BSN STUDENTS	Mar Gonzalez, <i>Class Vice President</i> Michael Cruz-Dominguez, <i>Class President</i>
KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Jean Putnam DNP, MS, RN, CPHQ, NEA-BC <i>Chief Nurse Executive, Baptist Health South Florida</i>
RECOGNITION OF NURSING HONOR SOCIETY	Audrey Miller, PhD, MSN Ed, APRN, PPCNP-BC, CPN, CNE, LNC <i>Director of the BSN AO and RN-to-BSN Tracks, Undergraduate Nursing President, Pi Alpha Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), Honor Society of Nursing</i>
PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS	Nightingale Excellence Award presented by Nola Holness, PhD, CNM, APRN, ANP-C, CNE, FACNM <i>Department Chair, Undergraduate Nursing</i> Outstanding Nursing Graduate Award presented by Ivette Hidalgo, PhD, APRN, PPCNP-BC <i>Clinical Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Nursing</i> Deans Legacy Award Presented by Jorge A. Valdés, DNP, CRNA, APRN, FAANA <i>Interim Dean & Fellow</i>
PRESENTATIONS OF THE NURSING PINS	Kenneth A. Jessell, <i>President</i> Jorge A. Valdés DNP, CRNA, APRN, FAANA, <i>Interim Dean & Fellow</i> Nola Holness, PhD, CNM, APRN, ANP-C, CNE, FACNM, <i>Department Chair</i> Ivette Hidalgo, PhD, APRN, PPCNP-BC, <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>
NIGHTINGALE OATH	Spring Class of 2024
CLOSING REMARKS	Jorge A. Valdés DNP, CRNA, APRN, FAANA <i>Interim Dean & Fellow</i>



JEAN PUTNAM, DNP, MS, RN, CPHQ, NEA-BC
CHIEF NURSE EXECUTIVE
BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jean Putnam, DNP, R.N., NEA-BC, is the Chief Nurse Executive of Baptist Health South Florida, the region's largest not-for-profit healthcare system with more than 27,000 employees and 4,000 affiliated physicians. She is responsible for overseeing more than 9,200 nurses and clinical partners, the development of the nursing practice for the system, as well as the organization's patient experience efforts.

Ms. Putnam has held a variety of nursing leadership roles for more than 30 years. Prior to joining Baptist Health, she was the chief nursing officer for Community Health Network, a 10-hospital system in Indianapolis. In that role, Ms. Putnam instituted several novel practices that allowed Community Health Network to better meet the needs of its nurses and patients, including the implementation of a virtual nursing model, the expansion of diversity programs in nursing, the creation of a \$2 million endowment to support nursing excellence, the implementation of a relationship-based care model and the achievement of top decile first-year nurse retention.

Before that, she served as the system's chief clinical quality officer and was responsible for the system's quality, accreditation, performance improvement, case management and risk management activities.

Ms. Putnam earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at the University of Indianapolis, a Master of Science in nursing health policy at the University of Maryland, and Bachelor of Science in nursing and Associate of Applied Science in nursing degrees from Purdue University.

Ms. Putnam has received recognition by several organizations, including the Excellence in Leadership Award from Executive Women in Healthcare in 2022 and the Patient Experience Innovator of the Year Award from Millenium Alliance in 2021. In addition to advocating for nurses and healthcare throughout her career, Ms. Putnam also has sponsored and led numerous research projects. She has been the principal investigator of nearly \$10 million in federal, state, and private research grants aimed at nursing innovation and care design remodel.



MRS. NICOLE J. WERTHEIM

NICOLE WERTHEIM COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

HONORARY CHAIRWOMAN

Nicole Wertheim's journey from her roots in France to her impactful contributions in the United States is quite remarkable. After earning her bachelor's degree in Fashion Design from Elisa Lemonnier College in Paris, she followed her passion for travel and embarked on a four-year journey that led her to Miami, Florida, where she met her husband Dr. Herbert Wertheim in 1968. Their meeting sparked not only a personal connection but also a fruitful professional partnership.

Together, they founded Brain Power Inc. in 1971, which went on to become the world's largest manufacturer of optical tints, chemicals, and instruments. Their business success paved the way for their substantial philanthropic endeavors. In 1977, they established the Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Family Foundation, marking the beginning of a legacy of giving back to the community – including transformational initiatives in the fields of healthcare, engineering, and the arts, as well as community-based projects that improve the quality of life for all.

Nicole's passion for nursing is evident in her commitment to supporting the profession. Her personal connection and appreciation for the field of nursing stems from her daughter, Dr. Vanessa Wertheim, who is a nurse. Nicole recognizes the vital role nurses play in the healthcare system and strives to empower them to reach their full potential.

For her efforts and commitment to the nursing profession, the Board of Directors of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Sigma), overwhelmingly voted to induct Nicole Wertheim as an Honorary Member of Sigma. The honorary status was conferred by the Board on those who demonstrate superior achievement in a chosen field and a commitment to the ideals and concerns of nursing. Nicole Wertheim was presented the Tribute Award on November 11, 2023.

Nicole Wertheim's impact extends far beyond her professional accomplishments; indeed, her greatest legacy lies in the values she instilled in her family. As a mother to Erica and Vanessa, and a grandmother to Elan, Alexa, Ethan, and Julia, Nicole's influence will continue to shape the lives of future generations.



JORGE A. VALDÉS, DNP, CRNA, APRN, FAANA

INTERIM DEAN AND FELLOW

Dr. Jorge A. Valdés serves as Interim Dean and Clinical Associate Professor of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Florida International University (FIU). He is a distinguished leader and author, with a prolific career as a clinical nurse anesthetist spanning over twenty years. As an educator, he is an advocate for diversity and inclusion in higher education and nursing, with over thirteen years of experience serving in numerous leadership roles at various academic institutions across South Florida.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Valdés served as Chair of the Department of Nurse Anesthesiology at FIU, where he made significant contributions to the field of nurse anesthesiology through the expansion of high-quality nurse education, scholarship, and solidifying a dedicated workforce of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Under his tenure as Chair, Dr. Valdés was instrumental in enhancing a strong foundation of FIU CRNA's across the nation by securing 100% pass rate of the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) exam and leading the re-accreditation of the nurse anesthesiology program by the Council of Accreditation (COA).

As a researcher, he has authored various book chapters on diversity, nurse anesthesiology practice, and has numerous publications and funded grants. Most recently, from 2022-2023, he was the Principal Investigator of the Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship (NAT) Grant funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) aimed at increasing scholarship and evidence-based training of CRNA's to practice safe anesthesia and pain management services in underserved communities.

His work has translated into transformational leadership in health equity, education, and legislative action, where he has tirelessly advocated for advance nursing practice and has appeared before the Florida State House of Representatives as an expert clinician in healthcare issues.

He is an esteemed Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology and a distinguished member of the Miami-Dade College Alumni Hall of Fame for his numerous contributions to the South Florida community. Additionally, in recognition of his unwavering dedication to excellence in all his endeavors, Dr. Valdés was awarded the FIU President's Council Real Triumphs Faculty Award in 2021. These accolades serve as a testament to his exceptional achievements, a champion for student success, and unwavering commitment to innovation and excellence in nurse education and the profession. Dr. Valdés' focus as Interim Dean is the continued success and enhancement of quality programs at the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences, advancing the college's research agenda, creating new innovative collaborative spaces for growth, and providing exceptional educational experiences for students.

Throughout his career, Dr. Valdés has served as president of the Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology and led numerous state and national professional nursing boards. From 2017-2020, he served as chair of the diversity and inclusion committee for the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, where he spearheaded national and regional presentations on diversity and nurse education.

In 2012, Dr. Valdés earned his Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree from the University of Miami and his Masters in Nurse Anesthesia from the Mayo School of Health Sciences Nurse Anesthesia Program in 2002. Currently, Dr. Valdés is completing his Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning from the College of Arts, Sciences & Education at Florida International University.

SPRING CLASS OF 2024

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FIU ALMA MATER

Composed by Belinda Kaitlynn Gunn

We pledge to thee dear F.I.U.,
with voices loud and true.

Alma Mater falter never,
shine forever Gold and Blue.

We fly our banners high,
ev'ry culture we embrace.

All our love and Panther spirit,
young and old we make this place.

We hail together F.I.U.,
ev'ry scholar side-by-side.

And we hail to Alma Mater,
Alma Mater be our guide!

MESSAGE FROM THE SPRING CLASS OF 2024



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We are grateful for your constant encouragement and unconditional love. Your support did not go unnoticed and will forever be valuable to our hearts.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

FIU | **Student
Government
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FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

