



NURSING PINNING CEREMONY

FALL CLASS OF 2024

FIU | Nicole Wertheim
College of Nursing
& Health Sciences
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FIU Nicole Wertheim
College of Nursing & Health Sciences

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. Passionate. 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 10,000 alumni in the fields of nursing, athletic training, health services administration, occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language pathology. They have gone on to serve communities locally and globally.

On September 25, 2013, the futures of Florida International University's nursing and health sciences programs were transformed when South Florida philanthropists Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim presented a \$10 million gift to name and endow the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences. This record-setting gift to the College means much more than a name change. It embodies 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. It serves as a catalyst to accelerate our aggressive strategic plan to further enrich our academic and research programs and attract top faculty and students.

The Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences is one of the founding units of the Academic Health Center at FIU, built on an interprofessional approach to health care education that mirrors the new paradigm of today's health care system. It 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.

The multicultural student body and faculty of the College reflect the highly diverse 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 health care delivery and health access concerns of minority and underserved populations.

The family of professors, academic leaders and students that comprise the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences work together to prepare culturally competent, compassionate and caring practitioners who are ready for the complexities and challenges of today's health professions. They are innovative clinicians and scientists who help their professions evolve to optimally meet society's health care needs. And they are leaders who fight tirelessly to transform and elevate the healthcare system so that everyone in our society can benefit.

This is the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences at Florida International University. Fueled by intellect; driven by innovation and caring.

The History of the 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, December 14, 2024
Wolfe Center Ballrooms, Biscayne Bay Campus

PRESIDING & INTRODUCTION OF PLATFORM PARTY	Dr. Jorge A. Valdés <i>Dean, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences</i>
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Rachel Dimant <i>AO-BSN Student</i>
ALMA MATER	Catherin Meza
PROVOST'S MESSAGE	Elizabeth A. Béjar <i>Provost and Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer</i>
REMARKS BY AO BSN TRACK	Brendan Teeters <i>AO-BSN Class Vice President</i>
	Nader Balkis <i>AO-BSN Class President</i>
RECOGNITION OF NURSING HONOR SOCIETY	Dr. Audrey Miller, <i>Program Director of the AO BSN, RN-BSN, RN-BSN/MSN, & FEP BSN/MSN Tracks, President, Pi Alpha Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing</i>
PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS	Nightingale Excellence Award <i>presented by Dr. Nola Holness, Chair, Undergraduate Nursing Department</i>
	Outstanding Nursing Graduate Award <i>presented by Dr. Lillybet Guilarte, Clinical Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Nursing,</i>
	Deans Legacy Award <i>Presented by Dr. Jorge A. Valdés, Dean, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences</i>
PRESENTATIONS OF THE NURSING PINS	Elizabeth A. Béjar <i>Provost and Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer</i>
	Dr. Jorge A. Valdés <i>Dean, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences</i>
	Dr. Lillybet Guilarte <i>Undergraduate Nursing, Clinical Assistant Professor</i>
	Dr. Nola Holness, <i>Chair, Undergraduate Nursing Department</i>
NIGHTINGALE OATH	Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences Fall Class of 2024
CLOSING REMARKS	Dr. Jorge A. Valdés <i>Dean, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences</i>

Elizabeth Béjar
**Provost and Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer Baptist Health South
Florida International University**



Elizabeth Béjar, Ph.D., serves as provost, executive vice president and chief operating officer at Florida International University providing oversight and strategic direction for the university's 56,000 students, 2000 faculty, and 11 colleges and 30 institutes.

As the university's chief academic officer, Dr. Béjar leads a team of academic deans and provost senior staff toward the implementation of FIU's ambitious strategic plan and bold vision to become a top 50 public university in research excellence and student success. As CAO and chief operating officer, Dr. Béjar oversees an annual budget of \$1.45 billion.

She has served as principal investigator for several grants, including a funded grant studying minority-serving institutions' models of success and a \$2 million Department of Labor grant focused on the future of the cybersecurity workforce. Under her leadership, FIU received a \$975,000 Department of Education grant to build on the success of completion grants and financial wellness programming to re-enroll students who stopped out during the pandemic or are at risk of stopping out. Recent

strategic initiatives include mobilizing and working with teams of education professionals to research, pilot, develop and implement 21st-century student success initiatives.

The first Hispanic and first alumna to serve as provost, she joined FIU in 2003 and has held several key leadership positions: as vice provost for Academic Planning and Accountability (2009-2014), vice president of Academic Affairs(2014-2018), senior vice president for Academic and Student Affairs (2018-2022), and interim provost (2022-2023). She was appointed provost in February 2023. Dr. Béjar received her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Boston College, an MS in International and Intercultural Development Education from FIU and a BA in Psychology and Elementary Education from the University of Miami.

“I believe strongly in the value proposition of the anchor public research university, and the critical role of faculty to ensure that students are prepared for the careers of today and tomorrow, are global citizens, and can achieve their goals and fulfill their dreams.”

**Mrs. Nicole J. Wertheim, Honorary Chairwoman
Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences**



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. With her daughter, Dr. Vanessa Wertheim, being a nurse, she has a personal connection to, and appreciation of, the field. 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, FAAN
Dean, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences



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

As a researcher, he has authored various book chapters on diversity, nurse anesthesia practice and has numerous publications and funded grants. 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, Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, 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.

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.

Dr. Valdés' focus as Dean is to continue the 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.

Fall Class of 2024

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Gabriella Pellerano

Eric Agosto

Laura Garcia

Sabrina Quijano

Ricki Alex

Tiffany Gentles

Jorge Rivero Carballo

Emma Alfonso

Tara George

Sophia Rodriguez

Stephanie Aloy

Jessica Ginton

William Roller

Patricia Anglade

Tiffany Glover

Sean Romero

Ivoone Anjum

Nadin Hernandez Armas

Alison Ron-Pedrique

Sendy Augustin

Esteban Hernandez Vaquer

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Nader Balkis

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Elizabeth Socias

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Brendan Teeters

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Carolina Vidaurre

Barbara Cespedes

Keren Martin

Vladimir Vilbrun

Rachel Dimant

Juliet Mendez Iglesias

Ksana Wallace

Karla Dongo

Lara Nazon

Joan Whitese

Benedict Dullan

Frantz Gerald Nerette

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Scott Carr, *Director, Intercollegiate Athletics*

Carlos B. Castillo '88, *General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel*

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!

FIU Alma Mater

*Belinda Gunn, Lyrics
Carl Strommen, Music*

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 75 and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp* and *cresc. poco a poco*. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

$\text{♩} = 75$
mf
We pledge to thee dear F. I. U., with voi - ces loud and true, Al - ma
Ma - ter fal - ter ne - ver, shine for e - ver Gold and Blue, We fly our ban - ners
high - ev'ry cul - ture, we em - brace, All our love and Pan - ther spi - rit, young and
15 *mp cresc. poco a poco*
old we make this place, We hail to - ge - ther F. I. U., ev' ry scho - lar side by
20 *mf*
side, and we hail to Al - ma Ma - ter, Al - ma Ma - ter be our Guide



Message from the Fall Class of 2024

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 Thanks To



FIU
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Association**