

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Megan Alley | alleym17@students.ecu.edu

Master of Science in Nursing
College of Nursing

Alley earned her bachelor's in nursing at East Carolina University and is currently two semesters away from obtaining her master's in nursing with a concentration of adult-gerontology clinical nurse specialist. Her research interests include identifying barriers to health care within rural settings, increasing access to care, and managing health disparities within her surrounding community. While she has lived in the eastern part of North Carolina most of her life, she is interested in learning more about the populations she serves on a day-to-day basis.



Catherine Barnes | barnesa18@students.ecu.edu

Master of Science in Nursing
College of Nursing

Barnes earned her bachelor's in nursing from Barton College and has worked in an in-patient obstetrical setting in eastern North Carolina for 11 years. She holds an adjunct position at Wilson Community College teaching maternal-child content. Her interests include increasing access to quality, including holistic primary care for women in the agricultural industry.



Taylor Beck | beckt18@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Beck has been a registered nurse in the Triad area of North Carolina for six years. She is currently finishing her Doctor of Nursing Practice program from ECU in the Family Nurse Practitioner cohort of 2021. Beck looks forward to transitioning from acute care into a primary care provider role. She hopes to work in a family practice office, treating patients of all ages and ethnicities in the Triad. She enjoys chronic disease management and health promotion and prevention across the lifespan.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Kristin Black | blackkr18@ecu.edu

Health Education and Promotion
College of Health and Human Performance

Health Education and Promotion, College of Health and Human Performance
Black received her doctorate in maternal and child health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health. Black's career commitment utilizes community-based participatory research, mixed methods and racial equity approaches to understand and address inequities in chronic disease and reproductive health outcomes. Her research focuses on addressing the sexual and reproductive health needs of breast cancer survivors, utilizing an anti-racism lens to drive systems-level change in clinical care, determining how the current racial climate impacts parents' childbearing and childrearing decision-making, and exploring racial inequities in maternal severe morbidity and mortality trends.



Kay Boykin | boykink88@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Boykin is a nurse with 44 years of clinical experience. Her research involves educating caregivers of heart failure patients to reduce 30-day hospital readmissions in an effort to reduce Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-imposed monetary penalties on hospitals. A strong proponent of the advanced practice nurse's ability to address the shortage of healthcare providers in rural settings, she desires to research barriers to nurses continuing their education.



Stacy Carlson | carlsons19@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Carlson earned her bachelor's in exercise science and a bachelor's in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She is interested in providing healthcare to the rural population in eastern North Carolina upon completion of her degree program. She is especially interested in the areas of endocrine disorders and cardiac diseases.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Leigh Cellucci | celluccie@ecu.edu

Health Services and Information Management
College of Allied Health Sciences

Cellucci earned her doctorate in sociology from the University of Virginia. Her research interests include strategically developing and implementing interprofessional collaboration opportunities to build stronger and more effective healthcare teams with meaningful inclusion of diverse voices.



Maria Clay | clayma@ecu.edu

Public Health
Brody School of Medicine

Clay was named chair of the Department of Bioethics and Interdisciplinary Studies in July 2010. She received her doctorate in adult education and organizational development from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1990 before arriving at ECU in 1991 in the Department of Family Medicine.



David Collier | collierd@ecu.edu

Pediatrics
Brody School of Medicine

Collier is a professor of Pediatrics and Health Disparities at the Brody School of Medicine. He serves as director of ECU's Pediatric Healthy Weight Research and Treatment Center and is an associate director of the Integrated Health Sciences Facility Core for North Carolina State University's Center for Human Health and the Environment. Collier received his doctorate in microbiology and immunology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed medical school and residency training in pediatrics at ECU's Brody School of Medicine. His clinical and research activities are focused on understanding the causes and consequences of childhood obesity with a particular interest in the role of the environment and environmental exposures in the development and maintenance of obesity.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Stacey Cottrell | cottrells18@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Cottrell is a registered nurse of 20 years and earned her bachelor's in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She will complete her doctorate program this summer. Her research interests include developing and evaluating a virtual advocacy program for education and resource management of chronic diseases in rural populations. The program will be patient-centered and focus on technology designed to improve awareness and access to resources for chronic diseases. Her research aims to develop, make accessible and evaluate educational tools delivered via a virtual patient advocate for chronic disease management.



Lonika Crumb | crumb115@ecu.edu

Interdisciplinary Professions
College of Education

Crumb is an assistant professor in the Counselor Education Program at ECU and is a licensed professional counselor. She received her doctorate in counseling and student personnel services from the University of Georgia. Crumb has authored scholarly publications related to student affairs in higher education, counseling and wellness, and holistic college student development. Her research interests include counseling in rural areas, rural education, promoting retention and persistence of underserved students in higher education, and college student mental health.



Stephen Culver | culvers@ecu.edu

Geological Sciences
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Culver earned doctorate in marine micropaleontology from the University of Wales and is the recipient of an honorary doctorate from Universti Malaysia Terengganu. His research interests include the use of benthic foraminifera (single-celled organisms with shells) as paleoenvironmental indicators. Culver and his students document the distribution of modern foraminifera offshore of North Carolina and Malaysia and use that information to reconstruct the geological and environmental evolution of the coastal zone of those regions over the past several million years. The sediments he studies can form shallow aquifers and aquitards and, as chair of geological sciences, he is interested in water resource issues in coastal North Carolina.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Kristen Cuthrell | cuthrellma@ecu.edu

Elementary Education and Middle Grades Education
College of Education

Cuthrell is a professor in the Department of Elementary Education and Middle Grades Education. She serves as director of the Rural Education Institute. Her research interests include innovations in educator preparation and rural schools and communities. She has more than 20 years of experience working in educator development in rural areas along the east coast.



Denise Donica | donicad@ecu.edu

Occupational Therapy
College of Allied Health Sciences

Donica is an occupational therapist with eight years of clinical experience with pediatric and adult clients and 14 years of academic experience at ECU. She is board certified in pediatrics and her primary focus of research is on elementary student success in written expression including handwriting and keyboarding skills. She has investigated the use of the Learning Without Tears programs for improving handwriting and keyboarding skills and is currently exploring the use of a virtual after-school program for elementary-aged students to improve handwriting skills.



Tyler Edgerton | edgertont11@students.ecu.edu

Master of Science in Nursing
College of Nursing

Edgerton is a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner student at ECU and is set to graduate in December 2021. She earned her bachelor's in nursing from ECU. Her experience includes caring for individual battling eating disorders and she hopes to enrich her community by working in a psychiatric hospital in a rural area.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Dara English | englishd04@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

English is a registered nurse and earned her bachelor's in nursing from ECU in 2015. She is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at ECU. Her research interests include colorectal cancer awareness for underserved and uninsured populations and utilization of community resources to provide care to patients with little to no insurance in the region.



Casey Fleming | ellisd14@ecu.edu

Political Science
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Fleming earned his doctorate in public administration from North Carolina State University. His research interests primarily include public and nonprofit management, particularly effective bureaucracy, organization behavior and interorganizational relationships. Fleming's current projects look at the factors shaping county-municipal partnerships in local North Carolina governments, the effects of bureaucratization and performance demands on public workers' attitudes and behaviors, and the ways public workers create workarounds to effectively and efficiently achieve organizational goals.



Nikki Forbes | forbesn00@students.ecu.edu

Master of Science in Nursing
College of Nursing

Forbes is a student in ECU's Master of Science in Nursing program focusing on adult-gerontology clinical nurse specialist. Her credentials include a bachelor's in sociology from ECU and bachelor's in nursing from Mississippi College. She has worked as a staff registered nurse in several community hospital emergency departments and as a nurse specialist health coach in the Internal Medicine Department for ECU Physicians. She seeks to leverage the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse RURAL Scholars Program to learn more about rural patients with the goal to work as a clinical nurse specialist where she can address barriers to care for patients who reside in rural eastern North Carolina.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Amanda Foy | foya19@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Foy is currently in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at ECU. She received her licensed practice nurse degree in 2006 at James Sprunt Community College, associates in nursing at Sampson Community College in 2008, and her bachelor's in nursing at Barton College in 2018. Foy's main interest and goals are to become a family nurse practitioner and provide excellent care to patients in rural Duplin County. Her interests are focused in the assessment, treatment and management of chronic health conditions in adults.



Amy Gee | geea91@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Gee earned her bachelor's in nursing from ECU and is currently completing her doctorate with a focus on adult and geriatric primary care. Her quality improvement focus throughout the program has been identifying and preventing delirium in the geriatric population and educating hospital nursing staff on the impacts of delirium post discharge. Additionally, Amy has been fortunate to participate in the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse RURAL Scholars Program and identify opportunities for improvement in the availability in health care throughout eastern North Carolina. The ability to improve healthcare delivery throughout the region is a priority for advanced practice nursing in primary care.

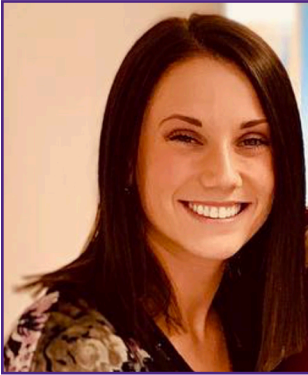


Ausmita Ghosh | ghosha18@ecu.edu

Economics
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Ghosh is an assistant professor of economics at ECU and a research associate for the Center for Natural Hazards Research. She is a health economist and conducts research at the intersection of health policy, labor economics and the economics of natural disasters. Her current research includes examining how public policies and economic conditions affect health and well-being of disadvantaged populations. Ghosh's work in health economics has focused on tracing the impacts of major healthcare policies such as the Affordable Care Act and the Medicaid program on health insurance markets, health outcomes, utilization of medical care and health disparities. Her research has been published in leading journals, such as the Journal of Health Economics, and has been featured by the Brookings Institution and the New York Times, among others.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Holley Hall | robersonh11@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Hall earned her bachelor's in nursing from ECU in 2015. Since that time, she has worked in an emergency department in central North Carolina. Since working in this setting, she has had the desire to help others prevent medical emergencies through maintaining good health in primary care, which is what sparked her interest to enter the doctorate program with ECU. Her research interests include common disorders that occur in the farmer population such as COPD and skin cancer as they relate to exposure to the sun, pesticides, and other harmful agents these individuals come into contact with. Having knowledge related to this will allow her to help protect this population of patients in the primary care setting through health promotion and education.



Nicole Harden | hardens19@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Harden earned her associates in nursing from College of the Albemarle and her bachelor's in nursing from University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She is currently working on her doctorate with a concentration as a family nurse practitioner at ECU and is scheduled to graduate the Summer 2021. She has been an emergency room nurse for five years in her local rural community. Her research interests include cerebrovascular accident prevention with a focus on diagnosing a large vessel occlusion promptly, community education for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and prevention of PTSD in healthcare providers and first responders.



Elizabeth Hodge | hodgee@ecu.edu

Interdisciplinary Professions
College of Education

Hodge leads the planning, implementation and evaluation of the Office of Community Engagement and Research's Engagement and Outreach Scholars Academy. As director, she develops and directs programs that strengthen community connections in eastern North Carolina and generates extramural funding proposals to support engaged scholarship at ECU. Hodge also serves as the assistant dean for innovation and strategic initiatives and is a professor in the College of Education. As assistant dean, she works to engage students and faculty in innovation and entrepreneurship including a grant program in the to support research and innovation activities. Hodge is the visionary behind the Innovation Living and Learning Community (ILLC). The ILLC is a four-year interdisciplinary program that creates an on-campus living community focused on growing student entrepreneurship activities at ECU and across the region. Hodge also serves as the administrator for the North Carolina New Teacher Support Program which is a comprehensive, university-based induction program offering a research-based curriculum and multiple services designed to increase teacher effectiveness, enhance skills and reduce attrition among beginning teachers.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Briana Holt | holtb18@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Holt earned her bachelor's in nursing from ECU in 2014 and is expected to graduate from the doctorate program in May 2021. She has worked on an intermediate care/urology unit at Cone Health for the last six years. Her research interests include management of chronic disease, vaccine compliance, and access to health care for the intellectual and developmentally disabled population. Her doctoral project is with Special Olympics North Carolina Forsyth County where she is aiming to ensure sustainability of the MedFest events that provide physicals to the Special Olympians.



Cyrille Hopkins | hopkinscy18@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Hopkins is a current doctoral student at ECU and is set to graduate in May 2021. Her research interests include agromedicine, specifically identifying ways to reach farmers and agricultural workers to improve their access to healthcare services. Additionally, she's interested in safety measures that can be implemented and utilized in the agricultural work setting to improve their health. Lastly, another area of interest is how COVID-19 has affected this population, what has been done to help them, and what can be done to make things better.



Kayla Johnson | workk19@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Doctor of Nursing Practice, College of Nursing
Johnson is currently an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse RURAL Scholars Program student within the College of Nursing. She plans to graduate in May 2022 with her doctorate with a specialty focus as a family nurse practitioner. After graduation, she plans to promote wellness as a nurse practitioner within a rural or underserved community to bridge the gap of knowledge and decrease the prevalence of disease.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Shakeema Jordan | sessomss04@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Jordan earned a master's in nursing from ECU. She is currently enrolled in the doctoral program at with expected graduation in Spring 2021. Her research interests include improving breastfeeding initiation and duration, primarily among underserved populations. She is interested in using telehealth to improve access to lactation education and support and enhance provider knowledge in outpatient settings, which include obstetrical, pediatric and primary care, to support breastfeeding mothers and families. Her goal is to support and partner with families during their breastfeeding journey and help mothers and families reach their individualized breastfeeding goals.



Christina Kidd | smithchris09@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Kidd earned her bachelor's in nursing from ECU in 2015 and has since returned as a graduate student. She intends to graduate with her doctorate as an adult gerontology primary care nurse practitioner in May 2021. She plans to work in primary care in eastern North Carolina. Her interests include preventative health, wellness promotion and chronic disease management.



Richard Lamb | lambr19@ecu.edu

Special Education, Foundations and Research Methods
College of Education

Lamb earned his doctorate in measurement and psychometrics from George Mason University. His research interests include developing and evaluating the learning opportunities for underserved groups in STEM and the role education can play in the improvement of patient protective measures in chronic disease related to cognitive decline, primarily for people in eastern North Carolina living with cognitive decline. Lamb's two main research goals aim to develop, deliver and evaluate web-based educational tools for self-management of protective measures associated with education and measures to promote science literacy among ECU's service population. Lamb assesses science literacy and general population use of the internet, learning opportunities, and social media for self-education, self-management, information, and support for all levels pre-K through 20.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Karen Litwa | litwak16@ecu.edu

Anatomy and Cell Biology
Brody School of Medicine

Litwa earned her doctorate in cell biology from Emory University, followed by postdoctoral training at the University of Virginia. As an assistant professor at the Brody School of Medicine, her research focuses on mechanisms of synapse formation. She uses human brain spheroids to research synapse formation and to address how genetic and environmental factors disrupt synapse formation. Her most recent publications focus on cytoskeletal and extracellular matrix regulation of synapse formation. Her research combines emerging models of human brain development with advanced microscopy techniques, such as STORM super-resolution microscopy to visualize individual synapses in developing neural networks. As an expert in emerging human brain models, she was selected to lead the 2018 International Society for Autism Research special interest group on, “Peering into the Patient Brain: Autism Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells in Research.” At ECU, she is the incoming president of the Eastern Carolina Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience and co-chair the LASER Technologies Application Group.



Alex Manda | mandaa@ecu.edu

Geological Sciences
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Manda earned his doctorate in geosciences from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He is the director of the pan-university Natural Resources and Environment Research Cluster at ECU. Manda’s research focuses on investigating groundwater-surface water interactions, assessing the hydrologic properties of fractured and karst media, and studying the influence of environmental change on water resources particularly in coastal regions. His research has also focused on community engagement as it pertains to water resources.



Joshua McDaniel | mcdanielj18@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

McDaniel earned his bachelor’s in nursing at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. His research interests include developing new programs and knowledge to prevent the occurrence and reoccurrence of neurological disorders. McDaniel’s goal is to decrease the rate and disability associated with neurological conditions, focusing on stroke and traumatic brain injuries. His current venture is developing best-practices related to creating web-based support groups during a pandemic.

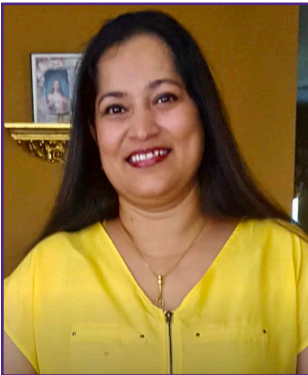
BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Bob O'Halloran | ohalloranr@ecu.edu

School of Hospitality Leadership
College of Business

O'Halloran earned his doctorate from Michigan State University and has taught courses in planning and development, financial feasibility, and food and beverage operations. His publications include numerous case studies and articles focused on the above topics. His current hospitality financial management course works with municipalities, chambers of commerce, economic development offices, and other organizations throughout eastern North Carolina. The recurring class project conducts a preliminary feasibility analysis for potential new lodging properties in communities, small destinations and tourism areas. These have included: Greenville, ECU, Tarboro, Ayden, Farmville, Edenton, Bell Haven, Washington, Greene County, Duplin Winery, New Bern, Robersonville, and others. His students are currently working with the Carteret County Office of Economic Development.



Marlene Pereira | pereiram18@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Pereira earned her bachelor's in nursing at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences in India. She has worked in North Carolina for the past 16 years and is presently pursuing her doctorate at ECU in adult and gerontology services. She focuses on working among the rural and underserved population in the state to bring out a change in promotion of preventative healthcare services to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas. She plans to work in primary care, learning about the needs of this population before branching further into programs that assist in connecting North Carolina's underserved areas with specialized services as needed.



Stephanie Ross | rossst19@students.ecu.edu

Master of Science in Nursing
College of Nursing

Ross earned her bachelor's in nursing at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She is currently enrolled in ECU's Masters of Science in Nursing program with a concentration in adult-gerontology clinical nurse specialist. Her current research interests are in health promotion and disease prevention in communities where there have limited access to health care and health education. Working alongside a company called Access East, she is learning the barriers and social determinants of health for eastern North Carolina specifically. One specific barrier is transportation in rural areas and has been an ongoing issue which is impeding patient's arrival to and from appointments they have free access to. Currently there is not a traditional role for a clinical nurse specialist in the community, therefore researching and assessing how the position can improve health outcomes in this population has been her research goal.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Marjorie Rowe | rowem20@ecu.edu

Literacy Studies, English Education and History Education
College of Education

Rowe studies the interface of orality and literacy in beginning readers and writers, particularly as it manifests in classroom discourse. Her scholarship encompasses child language acquisition and socialization, early literacy development, reading comprehension, and writing. She holds a doctorate in education from the University of California, Berkeley.



Sydney Sharpe | sharpes08@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Sharpe is currently a student in the doctoral program in the College of Nursing. Her research interest includes promoting more consistent preventative health care maintenance and screenings of people in rural North Carolina. She would also like to understand, identify and prevent barriers to assess of care in rural North Carolina. Lastly, she would like to understand how to provide more cost-effective care to the people in rural North Carolina. Her biggest focus is on access to care and she would like to promote health technology in rural North Carolina, such as telehealth and video appointments, for episodic chronic disease management and health promotion.



Laura Neal Sisson | sissonl20@ecu.edu

Business Counselor
Small Business and Technology Development Center at ECU

Sisson earned her bachelor's in parks, recreation and tourism management from North Carolina State University. Her research interests include all areas of the bus tour, to understand and learn more about the area that she lives and works. She seeks to provide the best counsel for clients that come to the SBTDC. She is born and raised in Greenville, but believes that seeing a learning more about her community and the impacts that effect this areas growth and development are essential for personal and professional growth.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Danielle Marie Stuessel | stuesseld18@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Stuessel earned her bachelorette's in nursing from Fayetteville State University. Her research interests include developing and evaluating patient-centered holistic care, primarily in rural areas in North Carolina. Stuessel's specific areas of study are to be decided.



Erzsebet Szatmari | szatmarie18@ecu.edu

Physical Therapy
College of Allied Health Sciences

Szatmari started her research program at ECU in 2018 as an assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, focusing on signaling pathways involved in early-stage Alzheimer's disease. Prior to this appointment, she worked as a Research Scientist II at Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience. Szatmari's early postgraduate training was in neuroprotection against excitotoxicity at the Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center where she identified the role of GSK-3 β in excitotoxicity and the neuroprotective role of the brain-specific scaffolding protein, called KSR-1. In 2007, Szatmari joined the laboratory of Ryohei Yasuda at Duke University Medical Center as a postdoctoral research associate. While at Duke University, Szatmari identified the role of the brain-specific protein, ADAP1 (Centaurin alpha-1) in synaptic dysfunction associated with early-stage Alzheimer's disease. Her work at Duke University was supported by a Ruth K. Broad Award and an individual NRSA (F32) fellowship.



Marti Van Scott | vanscottm@ecu.edu

Director of Licensing and Commercialization
Division of Research, Economic Development and Engagement

Van Scott is the director for the Office of Licensing and Commercialization. The office identifies and evaluates university inventions, builds partnerships between faculty and industry, secures intellectual property protection when warranted, and aids in securing licensing to existing and startup companies.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Jitka Virag | viragj@ecu.edu

Physiology
Brody School of Medicine

Virag's lab at ECU investigates the role of ephrinA1/EphA receptors in mitigating acute and chronic injury of the heart. Her lab examines the heart from the level of cardiac function using echocardiography and to the protein and gene level using immunohistochemistry, molecular imaging, proteomic analyses, and RT-PCR. It also performs cell culture and molecular assays to resolve mechanistic questions. Investigating the involvement of ephrinA1/EphA receptors in the injured heart provides the framework from which to extrapolate the potential capacity of selectively modulating ephrinA1 and EphA receptors to improve healing.



Kayla Wise | wisek18@students.ecu.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice
College of Nursing

Wise is a full-time doctoral student at ECU on schedule to graduate May 2021. She is a part-time registered nurse at Carolinas Rehabilitation that specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation. She has previous work experience in medical and surgical medicine and behavioral health. Her current quality improvement project is focused on substance abuse screening and referral to local treatment centers as part of the doctoral work.