Building Community
through our Values and Aspirations
Dean’s Letter

It is an honor to work with each of the remarkable individuals who appear in this book. Together we are taking the College of Nursing to the next level by envisioning a new, innovative strategic plan and creating new processes and efficiencies that will improve the way our College teaches, practices and conducts research.

The growth of the College is largely a result of our willingness to build upon our true foundation: people and relationships. By engaging and empowering students, faculty and staff, we are all reaching our full potential.

Every day I see our team growing through the many kind, compassionate moments that make our College so much more than the sum of its parts. The values and aspirations in this book illustrate why the College of Nursing is going to reach new heights.

It is my hope that you are as inspired by these individuals as I am!

Dr. Janie Heath, Dean of the UK College of Nursing
The UK College of Nursing held its 2015 Faculty/Staff Retreat4Ward at Spindletop Hall. More than 120 faculty and staff attended the event to update the College’s mission, vision and values, to create a new strategic plan and to strengthen our ability to work together as a community.

During the Retreat4Ward, Brenda Ghaelian, chair of staff council, and Dr. Kristin Ashford, chair of faculty council, led a team-building activity. They distributed fifteen square pieces of paper with printed images in the middle of each table. The ten individuals seated at each table were asked to choose one image that somehow illustrated their vision or aspiration for the College of Nursing. Participants were then asked to discuss why they chose the image and write their aspiration for the College on the back of the card.

This booklet is a compilation of how the faculty, staff and the students who participated see the College of Nursing growing and becoming more diverse, inclusive, productive, creative, kind, compassionate and impactful.

Enjoy recognizing the images that resonated the most with our College and that reflect how we are soaring high with excellence and leaping forward to advance education, practice and research.
“My vision for the College includes people of all shapes, sizes and colors.”

Dr. Jenna Hatcher, Associate Professor, Director of Diversity and Inclusivity

“The colors highlight things of importance and reflect creativity as we imagine what can be.”

Joanne Davis, Assistant Dean of Students

“We have to have laser sharp vision to advance the College of Nursing’s excellence and promote wellness in Kentucky and beyond through quality education, practice, research and service.”

Dr. Janie Heath, Dean of the College of Nursing

“The different colored pencils represent diversity and continued life-long learning.”

Laura Schrader, Lecturer

“I see a lot of creative potential in the College, many talents that are waiting for their moment.”

Greg Williams, Teaching Assistant

“People used to ‘sharpen their swords.’ In this College, we sharpen our minds to get down to the task of making this a great place to work and study.”

Emily Woods, Continuing Education, Administrative Support
“I am aware of all my senses – the smell of salty air, the sound of crashing waves, the feel of warm sand beneath my feet and the sight of beauty and wonder.”

Leslie Beebe, Lecturer

“There’s a story of a man throwing washed up starfish back out to the sea. When asked why he was saving them, he responded that while he cannot save every starfish, he still made a difference to the individual ones he helped. Just like this story, we make a difference for one patient, family, student, colleague or visitor at a time.”

Dr. Patricia K. Howard, Director, Emergency Services, UK Healthcare

“The ocean draws me to a place of peace and balance, and the light shows me the way. Life is an adventure, not a guided tour.”

Dr. Lynne Jensen, Associate Professor

“We all need rest and recreation to remain vital. The beach and the water are my place of refuge and restoration.”

Dr. Nancy Kloha, Assistant Professor

“I want the light to shine on the College, specifically the Clinical Simulation and Learning Center.”

Jennifer Dent, Lecturer and Director of Clinical Simulation and Learning Center
“I tend to want to solve the social wrongs that impact those who cannot or do not have a voice.”

Dr. Fran Hardin-Fanning, Assistant Professor

“This represents kindness, loyalty, friendship, love and taking care of others.”
Amy DelRe, Faculty Practice Manager

“It symbolizes collaboration and nurturing young minds. A reminder that we can grow.”
James Hayhurst, Staff Support Associate

“I am a pediatric nurse. Children and their well-being are important to me, which is why I spent 40 years achieving my professional goal. Since kids are the future, it is truly about them!”
Sherry Holmes, Assistant Dean for Academic Operations and Assessments

“I think it represents kindness and compassion, which are traits that are important to have in life and as we work with others.”
Kerry Powell, Student Affairs Officer

“A large part of who I am is my two children, and I love working with other children as well – as a pediatric nurse. The little girl in the picture reminds me of my daughter.”
Michelle (Shelly) Peters, Clinical Instructor
“At the College of Nursing, we want to help shelter the storms of change.”
Dr. Audrey Darville, Assistant Professor, Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist

“I tend to be an optimist. We may have rainy days but we stay positive and get through them.”
Dr. Debra Anderson, Associate Professor

“I’ve always loved to see people walking in the rain with pretty umbrellas. Nature is a very powerful thing, but rain can be gentle and under the umbrella you can hear the rain, you’re protected, alone and comforted.”
Mary Gregory, Staff Associate for Academic Programs

“This represents staying positive and shining no matter how cold or bumpy the road around you gets.”
Monica Mundy, Research Program Coordinator

“We are happy to teach despite our challenges and storms. We umbrella the sick and dying and teach our students to provide the care we want for our own loved ones!”
Dr. Lee Anne Walmsley, Instructor, Coordinator of Second Degree BSN Option

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Dr. Lee Anne Walmsley, Instructor, Coordinator of Second Degree BSN Option
“Successful transitions always take teamwork and everyone is valued. The College of Nursing excels at teamwork.”

Carole Haurylko, Instructor

“It reflects a partnership in which individuals with different backgrounds and agendas come together as a team to achieve a common, shared goal.”

Kathleen Kopser, Associate Chief Nurse Executive, Albert B. Chandler Hospital, UK HealthCare

“The College of Nursing program is four years of interpersonal student, faculty and professional relationships, which guide you to the finish line (graduation). As you progress through the semesters it doesn’t get easier, you just learn to adapt better.”

Caroline Newman, BSN student, Public Relations Manager for UNAAC

“This picture spoke to me of family and community in a very futuristic sense.”

Carol Riker, Associate Professor

“Sometimes I feel out of this world on this journey we call life. But I know something awesome is waiting for me at the end of it all. Greatness!”

Sophia Weathers, Staff Support Associate
“This image speaks to the transformation of heart, brain and courage. Our journey will help us grow stronger as partners and as individuals.”

Colleen Swartz, Chief nurse executive, UK HealthCare

“Together, UK HealthCare and the College of Nursing are on a journey to excellence similar to the yellow brick road. Just like Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Lion and Scarecrow, we are not only following the work of our peers but also stepping out of our comfort zones. While we each have our own goals and aspirations, at the end of the day, we are in this together. It will take all of us to make it to the final destination—nursing greatness!”

Sarah Bentley, Chief of Staff CMO/CNE Offices, UK HealthCare

“This image represents our partnership and our focus on teamwork to build a strong Nurse Practitioner workforce for the future.”

Dr. Lacey Buckler, Assistant Chief Nurse Executive, Advanced Practice and Strategic Outreach, UK HealthCare

“Sometimes the journey is just as much fun as the arrival.”

Dr. Sharon Lock, Professor, Primary Care DNP Track Coordinator
“It takes a great amount of teamwork and commitment to fly in this manner.”

Jason Harris, IT Director

“I see the College of Nursing as a breathtaking and powerful group of people. The sky is the limit for our future. Hold on and enjoy the ride!”

Stephanie Fugate, Instructor

“Time to take off! We’re moving forward, all together in the same direction.”

Dr. Heidi Hiemstra, Data Analytics Coordinator

“We need energy to tackle the problems and promote well-being in all!”

Dr. Dianna Inman, Assistant Professor

“The College of Nursing will continue to soar in admissions, grant applications and in funding!”

Ginny Van Horne, Director Office of Nursing Research

“As students, we all start out as strangers to each other, but by the time we are on that graduation stage, we are ready to fly off to start our careers, surrounded by our best friends and colleagues.”

Kaitlin Voigts, BSN student, President of UNAAC for second semester seniors

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“At the College of Nursing we operate from a single mission and vision. We all aspire to cultivate this in a forward, positive direction.”

Tricia Rogers, Instructor

“The College of Nursing is an educational environment fostering diversity, providing opportunities and empowerment for all students.”

Adebola Adegboyega, PhD candidate, Secretary for GNAAC

“This photo is a reminder of what a systematic, collaboration looks like when everyone is in sync.”

Dr. Robyn Cheung, Director, Nursing Professional Practice & Innovation, UK HealthCare

Interprofessional teamwork is critical to the advancement of nursing practice. In order to aim high and be successful, we must have common goals and objectives.

Dr. James Norton, Director UK Center for Interprofessional Health Education

“The College of Nursing is taking off and soaring for the future.”

Dr. Jan Odom-Forren, Assistant Professor

“Going forward, I see the College continuing to climb to greater success and achievements.”

Dr. Carolyn Williams, Professor, Dean Emeritus
“The College of Nursing can go in different and unique directions.”

Dr. Amanda Fallin, Assistant Research Professor

“As a child we would travel to Mexico. I was so excited each year to ride the zebra and I still remember the laughter and fun. Years later I found out it was actually a painted donkey!”

Khay Dougandara, Instructor

“We have to stand out from all other nursing programs, to place our College of Nursing in the top ten in the nation.”

Kevin Garland, Administrative Support Associate

“We STAND OUT as a College.”

Mary Harrison, Instructor

“I have been the ‘mother duck’ to many ‘baby duckling’ nurses. In the clinical setting I frequently call myself the mother duck to all of my ducklings who are always around me in the beginning of clinical days. But by the end of the clinical rotation, my ducklings are out taking care of patients needing only a little supervision from me.”

Wanda Lovitz, Instructor
“This pup represents the loyalty I treasure in my pups. I hope that I exude the same loyalty with my family, colleagues and students.”

Jennifer Cowley, Senior Lecturer

“I love everybody and I’m always excited to meet new people and visit old friends. I do not judge people – I meet them where they are.”

Aimeé Baston, Alumni and Development Director

“The faculty members in the PhD program provide unparalleled mentorship and research opportunities, and have been instrumental in transforming me into a nurse scientist, educator and leader in nursing – they are fully committed to preparing the next generation of scholars.”

Arica Brandford, PhD candidate

“I love this picture of my favorite animal and his look of unconditional love and gratitude.”

Mandy Bucy, Coordinator of Human Resources and Faculty Affairs

“Dogs and I have some things in common. We’re both loyal and love adventure. Part of my adventure is trying new approaches to see what engages students. Student success and well-being is very important to me.”

Dr. Lexie Dampier, Clinical Faculty
“Always be kind and help, even ones who are different in body and soul. Never turn a blind eye!”

Shannon Ferguson, Financial Analyst

“Nurses, by nature, want to help, provide care and reach out to those in need. We are the hand reaching out to those who need encouragement.”

Dr. Kristin Ashford, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean of Research

“Our professors want us to reach our full potential, they are the tree. The students are the squirrel, reaching and working so hard for that acorn, which is not just a nursing degree, but the compassion, knowledge and skills to be the best health care providers we can be.”

Megan Auger, BSN student, Chair-elect for UNAAC

“The College of Nursing should always be a place where helping is a possibility.”

Carrie Gordy, Assistant Professor

“We are reaching for opportunity.”

Dr. Debra Hampton, Assistant Professor

“We need to lend a helping hand to each other to be successful.”

Dr. Terry Lennie, Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Faculty Affairs
“As we move forward in the College, I want us to have fun, be peaceful and join together as a community.”

Brenda Ghaelian, Curriculum Development Director

“I engage and have fun in everything I do. Always enjoy the moment.”

Dr. Pat Burkhardt, Professor and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Faculty Affairs

“I studied and worked in the culinary arts field. For me this image symbolizes that no matter the amount of stress behind the scenes, an amazing result can be produced.”

Dan Rios, IT Support

“Food and peace. After a long day, it’s nice to have quiet time to reflect.”

Betty White, Administrative Support
“We are connected with the world and others. The brain (tree) is nourished by absorbing our experiences (roots).”

Clair Abney, Grants Support Specialist

“My vision for the College of Nursing involves efforts that will require all of our brain power and our best relationships. Our successes allow us to bloom and to grow.”

Dr. Melanie Hardin-Pierce, Associate Professor

“I see the tree as the brain which always has room for growth. Your head must grow larger to fit more knowledge no matter how awkward you might look with a big head!”

Christie Henson, Accounts Payable

“The brain demonstrates the diversity of minds that come together to share different life experiences and knowledge with the College of Nursing. And that keeps us on track to be the best and brightest in the world.”

Suzanne Pilon, Instructor

Continued to next page
“The College of Nursing must nurture and grow its creativity.”

Derrick Meads, Director of External Relations and Communications

“We as a College need to expand our minds, grow some raw branches and look at things in a different way.”

Cathy Catlett, Lecturer

“This picture represents the way I’ve been feeling since I arrived in the U.S. and especially the College of Nursing. I’ve seen it as an enrichment opportunity to embrace my knowledge and to share and learn from wonderful people.”

Dr. Ana Maria Linares, Assistant Professor

“We will use the ‘trunk’ of our College of Nursing tree to build on and we need to use our many leaves (people) to think strategically as we move forward.”

Karen Minton, Associate Dean for Administration and Finance
“This picture reminds me that we need to teach our students to think holistically when caring for patients.”

Tammy Courtney, Nursing Skills Simulation Lab Assistant

“The College of Nursing is at the top of the mountain.”

Hazel Chappell, CE Director

“Our collegiality and support for each other allows us to climb to the top and reach the highest pinnacle, opening our minds to endless possibilities.”

Dr. Patty Hughes, Assistant Chief Nurse Executive, Ambulatory, UK HealthCare

“I’ve always liked this piece, the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro. I like the open, welcoming arms and feel its similarity to the open, welcoming arms of the College of Nursing. If you want to be a nurse, we are going to do everything we can to help you become one!”

Kerrie Moore, Student Affairs Coordinator Senior

“The human being is made up of three parts: the body, the soul and the spirit. As nurses we not only address physical health, but expand that to take a holistic approach to caring for the soul and the spirit. This image is a reminder of our spiritual side and how our connections with people can have eternal impacts.”

Dr. Zim Okoli, Assistant Professor
“The hand represents ‘welcome,’ not ‘stop!’ The travelers are going to new places as a team that’s supportive of its members.”

Dr. Pat Howard, Executive Vice Dean of Academic Affairs and Partnerships

“The College of Nursing should be something that is looked up to and seen as a goal.”

Theresa Back, Research Nurse

“The sky is the limit for our students and programs.”

Dr. Angie Hensley, Didactic and Clinical Instructor

“We work together for a common goal under one (hand) umbrella.”

Rene Palumbo, Undergraduate Faculty Affairs Support

“I am an ‘Adventure Rider’ like the people in this photo; my bike is pictured here also. Looking at this makes me think, ‘They have prepared them, now they are going to the four corners of the earth. That’s what I hope for our nurses—that they are ready to conquer the field in any direction it leads them.’”

Brett Short, Chief Compliance Officer, UK HealthCare
“To me, water represents abundance. I want the College of Nursing to experience an abundance of great students, faculty, grants, everything!”

Hartley Feld, Instructor

“When working with local community coalitions I often have to jump off the cliff and fall down the waterfall after them to keep them from drowning. But I’m always trying to keep the overall goal or rainbow in mind!”

Amanda Bucher, Air Quality Research Data Coordinator

“The waterfall represents tranquility to me. I feel that I’m always in search of peace and tranquility in all aspects of my life.”

Dr. Julia Hall, Lecturer

“Flowing through life, you go off the cliff, but end up in the pool below bobbing around and moving into smooth water. The optimist sees the rainbow. Things always work out.”

Mary Jane Lesshafft, Student Affairs Officer

“Waterfalls reflect nature’s powerful yet renewing and relaxing impact.”

Dr. Joanne Matthews, Clinical Assistant Professor
“I believe in jumping higher than anyone else thinks is possible. I love achieving the unachievable.”

Dr. Rebecca Dekker, Assistant Professor

“I’m in a new position. Some days I feel like I’m jumping but most days it’s ‘I think I can’ make it across. My job in the College of Nursing is challenging and fulfilling.”

Brenda Combs, Project Manager for the Disparities Researchers Equalizing Access for Minorities project

“Take on that challenge. Don’t worry about the risks. You can’t cross the gap without taking on the risk.”

Dr. Tom Kelly, Associate Dean for Research

“I see change as good, sometimes scary. The chasm is wide, but it is also exciting and a rush. I love the challenge! It looks like I’ll make it!”

Paula Kral, Lecturer

“You are only limited by what you dare to dream.”

Dr. Elizabeth Salt, Associate Professor

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“Students have hurdles to overcome as they progress through their education. This picture represents the final step in their journey.”

Carol Martin, Skills Lab Instructor and Clinical Instructor

“I am positive! I am leaping into the collaborative liaison role with the College of Nursing and Norton Healthcare. I believe in us moving forward and having no limits to our journey!”

Tricia MacCallum, Project Manager for the UKCON/NHC Education Partnership

“I like going on adventures, trying new things, pushing limits. This photo made me think about a spirit of adventure – leaping across boundaries to get to the destination.”

Kathy Rademacher, Research Data Management Coordinator

“The College of Nursing is bringing a sense of adventure to nursing education as we integrate new technologies into health care and new learning systems into the classroom.”

Nicki Sullivan, DNP candidate, Vice Chair of GNAAC

“To me this image signifies taking a leap forward to newer and better horizons. The college is actively working on achieving big things but still has a ways to go.”

Robert Scharold, BSN Student, UNAAC Representative for first semester seniors
Our Goals

To support the aspirations of these outstanding students, faculty and staff, the College of Nursing depends upon individual, corporate and foundation gifts that ensure excellence for all of our programs.

With the growth and transformation of our College comes new and different needs that are limited only by our imaginations. Donors are invited to share and discuss ways in which private support will help to meet our emerging needs and goals and ultimately shape the College’s future.

The College of Nursing deeply appreciates the meaningful support provided by alumni and friends.

For additional information on gift opportunities, ways to give, or any other development-related questions please feel free to contact Aimeé Baston, Director of Alumni and Development at (859) 323-6635 or aimee.baston@uky.edu.

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