

# South Carolina Nurses Foundation (SCNF)



**Contributing Authors: Jason R. Thrift, Ph.D., RN, CHSE, De Anna L. Cox, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC**

It's the most wonderful time of the year! With the lights and the spectacle of the holiday season, combined with the approaching new year, this time of year presents a glorious way to end one chapter and begin anew. By this time of year, most nursing schools and colleges have started accepting their newest students in undergraduate and graduate programs, preparing for the coming semesters. It's a cherished gift when someone's hard work pays off, allowing them to pursue their dreams that even Santa Claus couldn't begin to imagine. Students realize their passions and are ready to step into the new world of nursing. However, some need help maintaining that dream, and whether the current state of economics impacts those aspirations or not, reaffirmation is needed to confirm their chosen path. So, now is the time you can support their educational needs through initiatives to raise scholarship funds. As we plunge deeper into winter, SCNF will engage in multiple ways to award and provide scholarships to individuals seeking support to pursue their goals.

The Nurse License Plate initiative goes on year-round, providing funds for scholarships for nurses and student nurses. You can visit the SCNF website anytime and click the link to purchase your nurse license plate. The site will link you to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), where you can set up payment and allow those funds to help student nurses and

nurses continue their education. SCNF presents the recipients of the undergraduate and graduate student nurses' scholarships for 2024 this month. However, the opportunities to raise funds for nurses and student nurses are beyond there. Midlands Gives (first Tuesday in May), and Nurses 5K (April 26th) will be fast approaching in the spring. The Palmetto Gold Gala will also be held on April 26th as part of a Nurses Weekend of recognition. You can also donate anytime to SCNF to support scholarships. To learn more about ways you can donate, please visit our social media pages or our website at [www.scnursesfoundation.org](http://www.scnursesfoundation.org).

Caring for others requires learning more, and learning more requires caring more. If we strive to help individuals realize their dreams and ambitions of becoming nurses or advanced practice nurses, we can give to a common need that supports us all. We can help them overcome obstacles, be bold in our endeavors, and allow compassionate people who gracefully serve others every day to achieve their goals. Our humanity is what drives us to care for others more than we care for ourselves.

South Carolina (SC) needs more nurses. Nurses need scholarships. Becoming a nurse or advanced practice nurse takes massive effort financially, physically, and mentally. It can take 2-4 years to earn a nursing degree. Advanced practice degrees add 2-3 years to achieve.

Doctoral degree programs, such as a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) or a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (Ph.D.) degree, add another 1-6 years of education. Patients receive better care and outcomes with more highly educated nurses. SCNF's mission is to provide scholarships for nurses and to ease the burden of the cost of an education. Now is the time to consider giving to the SCNF. You can donate in various ways. The SCNF social media accounts link back to the main website, where a donate button can be found. The license plate initiative shows everyone you are a nurse. Midlands Gives offers another method of supporting nurses across the state. Palmetto Gold is preparing for the next Gala to recognize nurses and student nurses, providing another means to support scholarships. Bequeathments from estates and "Friends of the Foundation" donations help offset the cost of running SCNF. The Board of Trustees for SCNF are all volunteers. We all understand how hard nurses work. SCNF is working hard to help nurses, but this cannot be done without you! We want to help people pursue their dreams. Remember: SC needs nurses; SCNF needs donations to give nurses and student nurses more scholarships. Please donate today! ■

# Diversity in Nursing Leadership Cohort

## Diversity in Nursing Leadership Fellowship

The Diversity in Nursing Leadership Fellowship was presented by the North Carolina Nurses Association in partnership with the South Carolina Nurses Association and Georgia Nurses Association and supported by a grant from the National Commission to Address Racism in Nursing. This fellowship was created with a focus on developing leadership skills specifically in nurses of color and other underrepresented nursing communities. Over the past few months, the Fellows were hard at work. They attended two virtual sessions, and their final class was in-person last month in Concord, NC. They explored topics such as unconscious bias, communication styles, and how to show up as an authentic leader. They also took a deep dive and discussed how to show up at work with confidence and find their voice while battling imposter syndrome.

With over 100 applications, 33 fellows successfully received their certificates and wrapped up their last session last month!

Each fellow showed up with intent, created a psychologically safe environment for one another, found commonalities amongst themselves, and realized they are not alone in their experiences. They were increasingly vocal in their discussion groups and found ways to lift one another and bring back their learnings to both their professional and personal lives. Through this comprehensive training, mentorship, and lively discussion, the fellowship has and will continue to support nurses from underrepresented backgrounds. ■

### SCNA is extremely proud of our state's Fellows:

Felita Chandler  
Maria Henderson  
Melanie Johnson

Ashley Owen  
Glenda Sims  
Karen Worthy



Diversity in Nursing Leadership Fellows North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia



South Carolina Diversity in Nursing Leadership Fellows Felita Chandler, Maria Henderson, Melanie Johnson, Glenda Sims and Karen Worthy (not pictured, Ashley Owen)