

# MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF NURSING

## *Office of Nursing Workforce Newsletter*

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## MESSAGE FROM ONW

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to the second edition of The ONW Newsletter. We are excited to continue this journey of connection, collaboration, and shared growth within Mississippi's nursing workforce.

Our goal remains clear: to provide a valuable resource that keeps you informed, engaged, and inspired. This issue features highlights on current initiatives within the Office of Nursing Workforce. This edition also highlights nursing schools across Mississippi that are demonstrating excellence, driving innovation, and shaping the future of healthcare through education and leadership.

As the nursing landscape continues to evolve, so does our commitment to being responsive and relevant to your needs. We understand the importance of staying connected, informed, and empowered—and this newsletter is one of the many ways we aim to do just that.

We hope each edition becomes a trusted source of insight and encouragement, reminding you that you are part of a broader community working to strengthen healthcare across our state. Your dedication, resilience, and leadership are the driving forces behind every step forward.

We also invite you to be a part of this growing conversation. If you have ideas, success stories, questions, or topics you'd like to see covered in future issues, we would love to hear from you. Your voice matters and helps shape the direction of this work.

Thank you for all you do. We look forward to continuing this journey together, and we are proud to stand alongside each of you in support of a thriving nursing workforce in Mississippi.

### **ONW Advisory Committee: Now accepting applications**

The Office of Nursing Workforce is seeking qualified Mississippi applicants for its volunteer Advisory Board Committee. The Committee shall advise and assist the Office of Nursing Workforce in promoting a culture of health for the citizens of Mississippi by giving professional guidance, counsel, or advice on how ONW can advance nursing education, practice, and workforce development.

Qualified applicants of interest are individuals who are health care professionals, health agency administrators, nursing educators, consumer representatives, and other appropriate professionals who can provide technical advice to the Office of Nursing Workforce.

***Applications are open until 4/25/2025***

[https://www.msbn.ms.gov/onw/sites/onw\\_msbn/files/2025-02/Advisory%20Board%20Committee%20Invitation%202025.pdf](https://www.msbn.ms.gov/onw/sites/onw_msbn/files/2025-02/Advisory%20Board%20Committee%20Invitation%202025.pdf)

## THE OFFICE OF NURSING WORKFORCE IS ON THE MOVE



*MNA Convention October 2024*



*Capitol Day January 2025*



*Legislative Nursing Summit  
February 2025*



*Madison County Job Extravaganza  
February 2025*



*Velma Jackson Career Fair  
February 2025*



*NWCC LPN Career Expo  
March 2025*



*Pearl School District Job  
Extravaganza  
April 2025*



*MOADN Convention April 2025*

Do you have an event that you would like ONW to be a part of? We welcome opportunities to connect with students, educators, and community partners. Please send invitations or event details to [lseaton@msbn.ms.gov](mailto:lseaton@msbn.ms.gov).



## GALLERY OF GRATITUDE

The Office of Nursing Workforce awarded \$860,000 to nursing programs across Mississippi—providing critical financial support to more than 1,200 students. These future nurses shared heartfelt messages of gratitude, reflecting the profound impact of this investment in their education and their dreams.

*“Your organization’s work has truly help take the financial burden off myself and family to secure my degree. We are truly appreciative for your generosity. “*

*- Olivia, MSN Student, MSU Meridian*

*“I want to personally thank each of your for helping make it possible for me to pursue my dream of becoming a Registered Nurse.”*

*-Jamia, ADN Student, Holmes CC*

*“Many know while in school students are not able to work as many hours so it is a blessing to be able to receive a scholarship to help with fees and tests. Thanks so much for allowing me the opportunity to be able to receive this scholarship.”*

*-Ashley, ADN Student, Hinds CC*

*“Becoming a nurse has been my dream job and I can not tell you how grateful I am for your assistance.”*

*- Taylor, MSN Student, MSU Meridian*

*“Receiving this scholarship has relieved the financial burden of tuition, allowing me to focus more on my studies and excel in my coursework. Thank you once again for your support.”*

*- Monterrica, ADN Student, Holmes CC*

*“This scholarship will allow me to stay strong in my studies finishing school as well as preparing to take the NCLEX. I want to thank you for granting me the ability to accomplish all that without the financial strain.”*

*-Caden, ADN Student, Hinds CC*

*“This scholarship will ease my financial burden and allow me to focus more on my studies and clinical training. I am committed to upholding the values of the nursing profession and using my education to make a meaningful impact in healthcare,”*

*- Jimeiah, Student, Holmes CC*

## SCHOOL SHOUTOUTS

### Alcorn's RN to BSN Program Recognized Among Mississippi's Best by Nurse.org

Nurse.org has ranked Alcorn State University's RN to BSN program as one of the top programs in Mississippi.

"We are thrilled to announce that the Alcorn State University School of Nursing's RN to BSN Program has been ranked as one of the best in the state for 2025," said Dr. Shirley Evers-Manly, dean of the School of Nursing. "This recognition reflects our commitment to excellence in education, the dedication of our faculty, and the hard work of our students. We are incredibly proud of this achievement, highlighting our program's outstanding clinical training, innovative curriculum, and support for student success."

She continued, "Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making our program one of the best in the state. We look forward to continuing to provide top-tier education and preparing exceptional nurses who make a difference in their communities daily."

Located on Alcorn's Natchez campus, the School of Nursing has a proud and longstanding tradition of graduating competent, caring, professional nurses who make a difference in their communities and beyond. Founded in 1977, the School of Nursing has produced hundreds of entry-level and advanced practice nurses employed in various healthcare settings. Equipped with a state-of-the-art learning environment, students acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to provide safe, effective, client-centered care.

It has two academic programs – undergraduate and graduate. The undergraduate programs include the Associate of Science in Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The Graduate Program comprises the Master of Science in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice.

To find out more about Alcorn's School of Nursing or to apply, go to [School of Nursing – Alcorn State University](#).

### EMCC Nursing Students Awarded Numerous Scholarships



Recent graduates of the [Associate Degree Nursing program](#) on East Mississippi Community College's Golden Triangle campus and the [Practical Nursing program](#) on the college's Scooba campus were previously awarded scholarships from The Bower Foundation, Baptist Memorial Hospital, the [Office of Nursing Workforce](#), and the Mississippi Nurses Foundation.

"Our goal is to not only accept the nursing and health science students into our programs, but to assist them in being successful, by providing methods to meet their financial needs and thus motivating them to continue on to graduation," said Student Success Navigator – Nursing Leslie Strickland, MSN, RN. "We are elated and grateful that we have the opportunity to provide them with the scholarships and grants that these agencies provide. We couldn't be more pleased that we get to play a vital role in preparing nurses to work in the communities that we serve as well as our state."

Associate Degree Nursing students on EMCC's Golden Triangle campus who received Office of Nursing Workforce Scholarships are Dennisia Batts, Lauren Hagler, Barbara Hudgins, Briana Johnson, Taylor Krajewski, Jenecia Lockett, Kaitlyn Bock Raines, Terrica Randle, Kandice Richardson, Deborah Singleton, Megan Sullivan, Diesha Verdell, Nicole Verdell and Donmetria Wright.

## Belhaven Recognized Among Top Nursing Programs by Colleges of Distinction

Colleges of Distinction has awarded top honors to Belhaven University's School of Nursing, School of Business, and School of Education for their commitment to academic excellence and student success.

These prestigious accolades recognize institutions that excel in delivering comprehensive coursework while integrating practical, real-world experience. Colleges of Distinction highlighted Belhaven students' ability to thrive both before and after graduation, entering the workforce with strong critical thinking skills and adaptability.


Dean of Belhaven's School of Nursing, Dr. Bobbie Loveless, believes that Christian commitment, expert faculty, connections with students, and a pledge to academic excellence is key to the department's success. "Our faculty members are expert clinicians and scholars, many hold certifications in nursing specialty areas," said Loveless.

"Our faculty and staff not only teach our nursing students to care for others, but they care for, nurture, and serve our students. Students bring their whole selves to Belhaven's School of Nursing, and our faculty demonstrate Christ-like love through mentoring them to learn and care for the mind, body, and spirit."

## Upcoming Events



The banner features the NADDI logo in blue and white, a map of Mississippi with the state seal, and the text "April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025" and "Brandon Civic Center" in white on a red background. Below this is the Brandon Mississippi logo and the event title "2025 NADDI of Mississippi Training Conference" in white on a dark blue background.



The banner features a smiling woman in nursing scrubs with a stethoscope. Text on the left includes "WEBINAR", "Helpful NLC Tips for New Nursing Graduates", "April 22, 2025", and "2-3 pm CST". A circular logo on the right says "25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY", "NLC", "EST. 2000", and "NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT". At the bottom, it says "Register Today" and provides the URL "ncsbn.org/nlcmeetings".

## CALLING ALL NURSING STUDENTS: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Your voice matters.

Are you a nursing student in Mississippi? Take just a couple of minutes to share your career goals, challenges, and what would encourage you to stay and work in the state after graduation. Your feedback helps real strategies that support you and your future in healthcare.

Take the Nursing Student Workforce Survey today.





— APRIL IS —

# ALCOHOL

## AWARENESS MONTH

Alcohol Awareness Month is a time to educate, reflect, and reduce the stigma surrounding alcohol use and recovery. Substance use can affect anyone, including those working in healthcare, and early awareness and access to information can make a meaningful difference.

Nurses often face unique stressors that may increase their vulnerability to substance use. Long hours, emotional demands, and the nature of the work can contribute to unhealthy coping strategies. Raising awareness and offering access to resources is an important step in addressing these challenges.

The Mississippi Nurse Voluntary Program (MnVP) is a confidential, voluntary program that offers an alternative to discipline for nurses dealing with substance use or mental health concerns. While MnVP does not provide treatment, it connects participants with structured monitoring and recovery support to help them maintain their licensure and return to safe practice.

This month is an opportunity to promote understanding and encourage nurses to seek help if needed. If you or someone you know is navigating these challenges, please explore the recovery resources listed below. Support is available and recovery is possible.



Scan for Recovery Resources

## Mississippi Nurse Voluntary Program

The Mississippi Nurse Voluntary Program (MnVP) was established as an alternative-to-discipline program to assist nurses who are impacted as a result of substance abuse and/or mental health issue(s). Participation in the program is voluntary, and all procedures and records regarding the nurse's participation shall be confidential and exempt from provisions of the Mississippi Public Records Act.

### Program Vision

The vision of the Mississippi Nurse Voluntary Program is to enhance the health and well-being of all nurses caring for the patients of Mississippi.

### Program Mission

The mission of the Mississippi Nurse Voluntary Program is to provide a systematic program designed to support and to monitor nurse applicants who seek recovery from substance use disorders (SUD) as well as qualifying mental health issues.

713 South Pear Orchard Road  
Plaza II - Suite 300  
Ridgeland, MS 39157  
601.957.6300  
MnVP@msbn.ms.gov

## FINAL THOUGHTS

As we continue to navigate the ever-changing landscape of healthcare, one constant remains: nurses are the foundation of progress, compassion, and connection.

Every day, nurses bring skill, strength, and empathy into the lives of those they serve. Whether at the bedside, in leadership, education, or advocacy, their influence reaches far beyond clinical care and touches every corner of our communities.

In this edition, we renew our appreciation for the dedication and resilience of nurses across Mississippi. Your efforts matter. Your voice is valued. And your work continues to move us all forward.

Let us remain committed to uplifting, supporting, and empowering one another. Together, we are building a future where the nursing profession thrives and where every nurse feels seen, heard, and valued.

Thank you for being the heart of healthcare. We are proud to stand with you.

Nursing is more than a profession. It is a promise to show up with compassion, to lead with purpose, and to serve with integrity. Together, we are the strength behind every step forward in healthcare.



*Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Office of Nursing Workforce*

If you are interested in sharing your news, articles, or updates for the upcoming newsletter, please send your information to: [lseaton@msbn.ms.gov](mailto:lseaton@msbn.ms.gov).

We appreciate your contributions and look forward to featuring your content in the newsletter.

Include details such as:

1. **Article/Content Submission:** Attach your article or content contribution for the newsletter.
2. **Contact Information:** Include your preferred contact information (email and/or phone number) in case there are questions or additional details needed.
3. **Media Attachments:** If applicable, attach any images, graphics, or other media files relevant to your contribution.