

Welcome Remarks  
Millicent Geare Edmunds Lecture  
April 20, 2017

Jane Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Dean and Professor

Good afternoon. I am Jane Kirschling, Dean of the School of Nursing and it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 2017 Millicent Geare Edmunds distinguished lecture.

The Millicent Geare Edmunds Lecture is made possible through the generosity of Ms. Edmunds, who, upon her death in 1963, provided an endowment to the School of Nursing to support lectures which “will add to the comfort, morale, or education” of students and nurses. Ms. Edmunds was one of 12 students in the 1905 graduating class of what was then known as the Training School, University of Maryland. She also served as the president of the School’s Alumni Association from 1920–1921 and on the General Committee of the 200th anniversary celebration of the City of Baltimore.

In 2010, the Institute of Medicine, now a part of the National Academies of Science, issued a report on the future of nursing. It noted that even though nurses represent the single largest segment of the health care workforce, the need for nurses continues to grow. It highlighted the need for increasing the number of nurses educated at the baccalaureate level, the number of doctorally prepared nurses, and the diversity of the overall nursing workforce.

This need for increased diversity is grounded in evidence captured in a 2004 IOM report, *“In the Nation’s Compelling Interest: Ensuring Diversity in the Health Care Workforce.”* This report noted that “greater diversity among health professionals is associated with improved access to care for racial and ethnic minority patients, greater patient choice and satisfaction, better patient-provider communications, and better educational experience for *all* students while in training.” In short, a diverse student body can improve the cultural competencies and broaden the perspectives of all learners.

I should note that here at the School of Nursing we are quite proud of our highly diverse student body. In fall 2016, 46% of our students across all programs represented racial and ethnic diversity, in contrast to the national average for nursing schools of 32%.

Clearly, multiple solutions are needed to build our nation’s overall nursing capacity, to advance the educational preparation of all nurses, and to ensure diversity in nursing, and across all of the health professions. Today’s lecture considers innovative strategies that help to address these needs. The panel will discuss strategies that support and promote the education of Maryland youth so they are prepared to apply to nursing, health care, and health-care related research education programs thereby enhancing the supply of well-trained professionals and broadening the diversity of our health care workforce.

Both individual work and the collective efforts of our three panelists exemplify the University’s commitment to community engagement and building

partnerships with surrounding communities that can contribute to meaningful and sustainable educational, employment, and economic opportunities and serve as a catalyst for community empowerment. A few introductory words about each of our panelists:

**Vanessa Fahie**, is an assistant professor in the University of Maryland School of Nursing's Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health. She has over 30 years of dedicated support and commitment to transforming nursing education and increasing workforce diversity. She has directed model nursing workforce enhancement programs with undergraduate and secondary schools since 1994. In this work she has developed significant partnerships with public schools, Baltimore area undergraduate nursing programs, and health professions programs at Maryland institutions. These partnerships involve a team of nurse and STEM educators, undergraduate and graduate students, and nonprofit mentoring and leadership organizations for youth. She has been recognized with the 2011 University of Maryland Baltimore Outstanding Faculty Diversity Award and in 2015 she was named a UMB Champion of Excellence. She received her PhD, her MS, and her BSN from the University of Maryland School of Nursing.

**Ann Marie Felauer**, is a pediatric nurse practitioner who serves as the specialty director for the Acute Care and Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) program at the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) where she teaches as both course and clinical faculty. She received her BSN from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, MS from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and is certified as Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She received a Post-

Master's Certificate from Rush University-Chicago as an Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner several years later. She is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at UMSON. She is currently serving as a mentor for the CURE Scholars Program, a landmark effort on the part of UMB to increase the number of minority students who pursue careers in the health professions and/or in science.

**Ashley Valis** has served as the Executive Director of Community Initiatives and Engagement for the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) since 2014. In this role, she established the Office of Community Engagement within the Office of the President to elevate and more effectively coordinate and support UMB staff, faculty, and students in their work with Baltimore neighborhoods.

She previously served in a variety of positions in the office of Governor Martin O'Malley from 2007 to 2014. Ms. Valis is a graduate of University of Delaware where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Family and Community Services. She also holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Please join me in welcoming our distinguished participants.

**Patty Franklin will come back to the stage and say a few words about the format of the program.**

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