



American Academy of Nursing Designates the National University Nurse Managed Clinic Project as an Edge Runner Model

Innovative Nurse-Designed Model Created by Gloria J. McNeal, Arnetta Finney, Patricia L. Humbles, and Angela T. Williams Selected for Recognition

Washington, D.C. (October 6, 2020) – The American Academy of Nursing (Academy) today recognizes the *National University Nurse Managed Clinic (NUNMC) Project* as an American Academy of Nursing Edge Runner. The NUNMC Project was created by Gloria J McNeal, PhD, MSN, ACNS-BC, FAAN, Arnetta Finney PhD, APRN, FNP-C, APWHc, CNL, Patricia L. Humbles, PhD, RN, and Angela T. Williams PhD, FNP-C, APRN, CNL.¹ Academy Edge Runners are nurse-designed innovative models of care or interventions with significant, demonstrated outcomes to improve health, impact cost, and influence policy.

The NUNMC Project uniquely shifts the paradigm for the provision of healthcare services by bringing the interprofessional healthcare team directly to the community, and by adhering to the principles of person-centered care in the delivery of primary care as well as mental and social services, on-site at designated locations throughout underserved neighborhoods.²⁻³

“The Academy is proud to designate the *National University Nurse Managed Clinic* as an Edge Runner model of care,” said Academy President Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN. “This inventive model brings the health setting directly to the patients by providing critically important, culturally-appropriate care in settings that are comfortable for the patient, thus improving health outcomes. Dr. McNeal and her team have demonstrated great success with this project and we at the Academy are honored to recognize their work as it aligns with our goal to advance health equity.”

The NUNMC Project is the fourth in a series of multimillion dollar corporate and federally-funded nurse-led clinics designed by Dr. McNeal over the course of nearly three decades. Dr. McNeal’s related projects have improved care in selected underserved communities within Philadelphia County in Pennsylvania, Essex County in New Jersey, and Los Angeles County in California. For each iteration, she has improved upon the model, which has been covered by the press in major news outlets from coast to coast; and has been awarded numerous proclamations and citations from elected officials at the municipal, state, and federal level. The American Academy of Nursing initially recognized this work in 1994 when Dr. McNeal was named the recipient of its Media Award. In 2009, Dr. McNeal presented testimony regarding this model of care before the Institute of Medicine (IOM), now the National Academy of Medicine, subsequently publishing this work as an invited co-contributor in the landmark IOM publication on the *Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. In 2018, AARP’s Public Policy Institute identified this work as fostering a Culture of Health.⁴ The current NUNMC Project utilizes

¹ McNeal, GJ. (2019). Implementing interprofessional team-based training for diverse student populations using a person-centered conceptual framework. *The ABNF Journal*, 30:4, 96-108.

² Harrison, J., Frampton, S., McNeal, GJ., Todorova, E., Wahl, C., & Kreiger, J. (2019) Rethinking education from the patients’ perspective. *The ABNF Journal*, 30:3, 65-73.

³ McNeal, GJ., Finney, A., Humbles, P., McKeehan-Campbell, I., Williams, A., & Peralta, A. (2019). Applying person-centered principles in the design and implementation of a virtual nurse managed clinic. *The ABNF Journal*, 30:3, 81-89

⁴ McNeal, GJ. (2018). “Bringing health services straight to the people”. IN *AARP Public Policy Institute’s Culture of Health Initiative*. (Ed.) Reinhard, S. Washington, DC: Association of Retired Persons. pg 10. <https://www.aarp.org/ppi/info-2017/cultivating-a-culture-of-health-leaders-transforming-their-communities.html>

an interprofessional health team approach and outcomes-oriented focus for this university-based healthcare initiative, which cost effectively employs faculty-supervised students and a mobile health care team, in association with the clinical affiliates of National University, community-based organizations, and faith-based entities. Additionally, with this iteration of the nurse-led model, Dr. McNeal and her team introduced the concept of telehealth technologies to remotely monitor biometric data: body weight, oxygen saturation, blood pressure, body temperature, and heart and respiratory rate, transmitted to the cloud over HIPAA compliant networks.

“My colleagues and I are truly so appreciative of the American Academy of Nursing for recognizing our work and for awarding our Project this tremendous honor. We proudly accept the Edge Runner designation on behalf of the communities, faculty, students and staff who work tirelessly to address healthcare inequities, improve access to care, and promote the principles of person-centered care” stated Dr. McNeal, NUNMC Project Director and Associate Vice President for Community Affairs in Health at National University.

The National University Nurse Managed Clinic Program’s Edge Runner profile is available to view [here](#).

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