

OHSU School of Nursing and the Ed.D. Program: Over Twenty Years of Educational Leadership & Scholarship

Dr. Mary McFarland (1989), Dr. Marsha Heims (1991), Dr. Kathie Lasater (2005), Paula Gubrud-Howe (cohort 1997), and Tanya Ostrogorsky (cohort 2001) are part of an informal, twenty five year, educational partnership between the Graduate School of Education doctoral program and the Oregon Health & Science University's School of Nursing. Their broad array of research and scholarship interests demonstrates the diversity of students who have chosen the Graduate School of Education doctoral program, and the variety of pathways available to those interested in the Ed.D. Whether it is teaching, research and scholarship, and/or program evaluation, these two doctoral students and three graduates are educational scholars and leaders in every sense of the word.



The Tri-University Program

The origins of the doctoral program can be traced to a partnership between Portland State, University of Oregon, and Oregon State University. According to Mary and Marsha, the Board of Higher Education did not want a second doctoral program of education in the state, and saw the tri-university partnership as an innovative way to meet the needs of the metro-area, place-bound students who were interested in pursuing doctoral work in education. As Marsha and Mary explain, while courses were available at PSU, in the early days, students were required to meet the University of Oregon and Oregon State University residency requirement of 9 credits of on-campus course work. From weekend intensives to crashing on a colleague's couch in Eugene two days a week, this requirement found students relying on a variety of strategies to get through the program.

The PSU/GSE Doctoral Program: The Research Ed.D.

Able to demonstrate the growing need for a doctoral program in the Portland metro area, Portland State was given the green light for an Ed.D. program. As the tri-university program began to wind down, Mary was given the choice to continue with the tri-university program or the new Ed.D. program. Mary ultimately chose to complete her studies at PSU and she went on to earn an Ed.D. from the Graduate School of Education at Portland State in 1989.

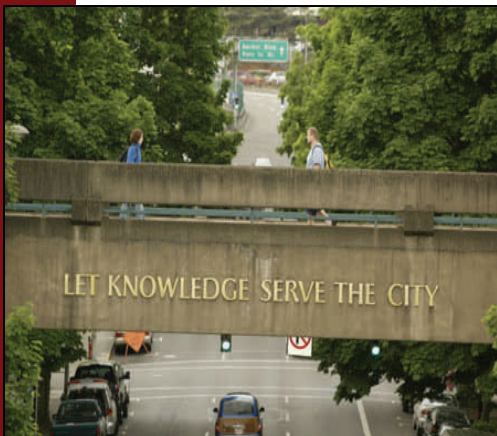
While Mary and Marsha benefited from the exposure to faculty and opportunities for coursework from the state's three universities, Marsha believes the PSU program offers something very unique, an opportunity to build and broaden your skills as a researcher, scholar, and practitioner. As Marsha explains, PSU graduates have really earned a Research Ed.D. in Education and/or Educational Leadership.

The Nursing Crisis: A Shortage of Nurses and Nurse Educators

The American media has paid much attention to the growing disparity between the number of qualified nurses and the needs of the aging baby boomers. Yet, as our colleagues at the School of Nursing are quick to explain, the crisis is much more complicated than simply getting more students into and through nursing programs. Rather, a key factor in this national crisis is the lack of qualified nurse educators.

According to Kathie, the limited number of nurse educators directly affects the number of qualified students admitted to nursing programs around the country. At OHSU, the School of Nursing has seen many of its retired teaching staff return to the work at least once. Both Mary and Marsha are examples of this trend, with Mary returning to work more than once after retirement.

For Mary, Marsha, Kathie, and Paula, the doctoral program has had a positive impact on their work as nursing educators, as well as playing a crucial role in meeting the nursing needs of our growing and aging communities.



Look for more information about Mary, Marsha, Kathie, Paula, and Tanya in the
Spring edition of the Ed.D. newsletter.