

JUNE/JULY 2022



# the PULSE

NEWSLETTER

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### PG. 2

PRIDE Month Featured Editorial

### PG. 3

Welcome, President Smith

### PG. 4

Picnic Project Donations

### PG. 5-8

Cohort Updates & Recent Activities

## PRIDE Month



**Keep your finger on the PULSE...**

Contact your LMSNA editors  
for article & photo submissions:

**Nikki Lacerenza, Cohort 29**  
[niclac0781@students.ecpi.edu](mailto:niclac0781@students.ecpi.edu)

**Chantelle Dunkley, Cohort 29**  
[chadun2476@students.ecpi.edu](mailto:chadun2476@students.ecpi.edu)

## HAPPY PRIDE MONTH

by BRANDON SHADEED | LMSNA President, Cohort 29

Pride! The month of June is nationally known as pride month. Throughout the years, the LGBTQ+ community has come a far way despite the disparities that they have encountered. Multiple disparities lie within the healthcare field due to misconceptions and stigmas surrounding the members of this community. Within the healthcare field, we know that it takes a special person that is open-minded, accepting, and nonjudgmental to care for others. As a nurse, it is imperative to provide nonjudgmental care to all regardless of their age, race, sexual orientation, and self-identified gender as the healthcare field should be a safe haven for everyone.

Due to the number of disparities that the LGBTQ+ community experiences within the healthcare field, it is important that as future nurses, we work to bridge this gap and end the ongoing inequalities. I challenge you, from this month forward, to always treat everyone equally and demonstrate a sense of acceptance, equality, and always have pride in the great care you provide to your patients. Imagine all of your patients are family members and provide the care you would want them to be given.

Happy Pride Month!




- One in eight LGBT people (13%) have experienced some form of unequal treatment from healthcare staff because they are LGBT.
- Almost one in four LGBT people (23%) have witnessed discriminatory or negative remarks against LGBT people by healthcare staff.
- One in seven LGBT people (14%) have avoided treatment for fear of discrimination because they are LGBT.
- Seven in ten trans people (70%) report being impacted by transphobia when accessing general health services.
- 90% of trans people reported experiencing delays when seeking transition-related healthcare.
- The month of June was chosen as LGBT Pride Month to commemorate the Stonewall Riots, which occurred at the end of June 1969.
- More than 8 million adults in the US are Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual, comprising 3.5% of the adult population.



## WELCOME, PRESIDENT SMITH

BIO by BRUCE SMITH | Campus President, ECPI University

A professional headshot of Bruce Smith, a middle-aged man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light purple shirt, and a striped tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

Bruce Smith has recently been appointed as the campus president at ECPI University in Lake Mary, Florida. Bruce comes to ECPI University, Lake Mary with 15 years of experience in higher education and leading change for operational excellence. Prior to joining ECPI, Bruce most recently served as campus president at Fortis College in south Miami-Dade, Florida. Bruce was the director of campus operations at Chamberlain University before joining Fortis College. At Chamberlain, he was instrumental in leading a one-of-a-kind educational alliance with Ochsner Health System where the nursing program was embedded in Ochsner's nursing department to effectively onboard new graduate nurses. He has experience in providing consulting services as an independent consultant for higher education, specializing in areas that included student enrollment, student success and retention, and financial aid. In his over six years at Brown Mackie College, he served as campus dean in Louisville, Kentucky; dean of academic and student affairs at the Miami campuses; and regional student finance manager in Cincinnati, Ohio. He also spent six years at the University of Phoenix, in roles that have ranged from admissions advisor, corporate trainer, and associate director of student and financial services.

Bruce earned a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in political science from the University of Kentucky and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the University of Phoenix. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix in which he hopes to finish in the summer of 2022.

## PICNIC PROJECT DONATIONS

by CHANTELE DUNKLEY & NIKKI LACERENZA | LMSNA Editors, Cohort 29

We are still collecting your new or clean and gently used items to donate to the Picnic Project. The Picnic Project is a nonprofit organization located in the heart of Downtown Sanford that provides hundreds of food items, clothing items, and hygiene items to the community.

In partnership with ECPI, AdventHealth, and the Seminole County Health Department, the Picnic Project also provides health-related and supportive services to those in need. The LMSNA is collecting donations including:

- Clothing
- Blankets
- Ponchos
- Soap/Body wash
- Deodorant
- Haircare items
- Mouthwash
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Lotion
- Diapers

The LMSNA will be bringing items to the Picnic Project monthly, and every little bit helps! You can rest assured that your donations and involvement makes a difference, so be sure to stop by the library and drop off your items.

We are grateful for anything you can offer or contribute.



**PICNIC**  
PROJECT

***“Bringing  
hope for a  
brighter  
tomorrow.”***

## HOW 'BOUT A ROUND OF A-PAWS

by NIKKI LACERENZA | LMSNA Editor, Cohort 29

Dogs are commonly known as man's best friend, but did you know that some dogs have the ability to play a vital role in helping to manage their owners' diabetes?

Severe cases of high or low blood sugar can be very dangerous and may lead to life-threatening health complications. Recently, Cohort 29 was visited by an ECPI University alumnus and her furry healthcare hero who endured extensive training to be a diabetes service dog.

Diabetic Alert Dogs, also referred to as DADs, are specifically trained to smell the compounds released from the body when blood sugar is high or low. These highly skilled canines are able to alert their owners of dangerous levels of blood sugar before they become symptomatic.

A variety of breeds can be trained to be diabetes service dogs and perform numerous specialized tasks such as:

- Detect the chemical markers associated with high or low blood sugar levels in the blood
- Alert you by barking
- Awaken or stir you from sleep by barking, pawing, nudging, and jumping
- Assist you by carrying a sugar gel pack on their collar or vest, which you can take to raise your blood sugar level
- Alert another person to the situation if you are not coherent

The next time you see a dog with a medical alert or service vest, remember that these dedicated companions just might be their owner's lifeline.



*“When I started this program 11 months ago, I didn’t realize how quickly time would fly by. I have learned so many valuable lessons and skills throughout this program. Starting practicum has been an exciting culmination of our hard work in this program. I’m excited to use my new skill set in practice at Nemours Children’s Hospital in the Cardiac ICU!”*



ALLISON BAHNG | LMSNA President, Cohort 28

## CONGRATULATIONS, COHORT 28

by CASSANDRA CALERO | LMSNA Editor, Cohort 28



Congratulations to Cohort 28 of the ABSN program for reaching the finish line! They are set to graduate on July 9th with a grand total of 56 students.

They sacrificed comfort and normalcy, persisted through countless hurdles, and committed themselves to this challenging yet gratifying program. An ending which once seemed like a distant mirage is now a vivid reality and something to be proud of.

Good luck to these highly ambitious nurses and their future endeavors. We wish them continued success!

**“It has been a long journey but such a bittersweet moment knowing that all the skills will be put into practice.”**

ERICA ODOH | TBSN President, Cohort 3

Cohort 3 finishes up their last simulation at ECPI University



Cohort 3 students practicing CPR



*Cohort 5 would like to thank everyone who attended and viewed their research poster presentations.*

*Our students greatly appreciate your support!*



ECPI UNIVERSITY  
ORLANDO CAMPUS

WELCOME TO COHORT 5 RESEARCH  
POSTER PRESENTATIONS

