

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

FUTURE OF NURSING

March 20, 2023

- Welcome to Oakland University and....welcome to a long overdue and profoundly timely discussion about the need for nurses to play a central role in the shaping of public health policy.
- Thank you to our panelists, the policymakers at the forefront of developing Michigan healthcare policies, and our moderator Lilia Lazarus, for her excellent reporting on a range of health issues. Your work, Lila, is truly a public service.
- In the three years since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, we must not only learn from what nurses can teach us about healthcare, but we must also find better ways to care about the nurses who care for us.
- And that care begins with listening... and then translating what we hear into more responsive and effective policies that improve the health of all Michigan residents.
- In an increasingly complex healthcare system of specialists, there is a compelling need for all of us in healthcare to remember that we must treat the whole patient, including the psychological and emotional effect of living with an injury, illness or a disease...
- No one knows that better than the nurses at patients' bedsides hour after hour, day after day.
- "The Future of Nursing" symposium comes at a time of profound change in healthcare, medicine, public health policy and politics.
- In this cauldron of cultural change, nursing stands at a crossroads.
- Between 2020 and 2021, the number of working U.S. nurses dropped by over 100,000, the largest single-year decline recorded in four decades of data (according to the Current Population Survey, January, 2022).
- And shortages in critical care staff at U.S. hospitals are on the rise. (Source: [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services \(https://healthdata.gov/Hospital/COVID-19-Reported-Patient-Impact-and-Hospital-Capa/g62h-syeh\)](https://healthdata.gov/Hospital/COVID-19-Reported-Patient-Impact-and-Hospital-Capa/g62h-syeh))
- The reasons for the nursing shortage must be addressed...including staffing, workplace conditions, burnout, wages, lack of incentives and the surges of Covid-19 cases among healthcare workers.
- We must realize that nurses make up the underpinning of the American healthcare system, and that underpinning is in

serious need of support.

- By 2030, the number of registered nurses needed in the United States is estimated to increase by 28.4% from 2.8 million to 3.6 million.
- Nursing schools across the country are finding ways to graduate more registered nurses to meet the current healthcare demand.
- To help meet the critical demand for nurses in Michigan, Oakland University and Corewell Health have partnered to increase the number of nurses graduating from OU.
- Through our strategic collaboration, Corewell will provide \$10 million for student grants and more than \$10 million for infrastructure investments.
- Today's "The Future of Nursing" symposium will look at healthcare and nursing trends, and explore ways nursing educators, policymakers and nurses can be more influential public health policy advocates.
- In many ways, nurses must learn to advocate for themselves the way they advocate effectively for their patients.
- It's a discussion that will determine the quality of the Michigan and American healthcare system in the days and years ahead.
- And now, I'd like to introduce Governor Gretchen Whitmer, who has been a strong advocate for nurses and a passionate supporter of public health policies designed to protect all Michigan residents.

EVENT RUN OF SHOW

8:30 AM Attendee Registration/Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM MC starts Symposium
9:01 AM Welcome: OU President, Dr. Ora Pescovitz
9:05 AM Governor Whitmer Address (TBD)
9:15 AM OU SON Address: Dr. Judy Didion
9:20 AM Panel Discussion (moderated by MC) includes: Legislatures & Healthcare leaders
9:45 AM Q&A – 30 mins
10:15 AM Close Panel Discussion/Intro Advocate Training: Carlie Austin
10:20 AM Networking: Break w/Refreshments-25 mins
10:45 AM Nurse Advocate Training Session: Rochelle Black/Bonnie Maluchnik)
11:25 AM Closing: Carlie Austin
11:30 AM Event Ends