

2024

From the Leadership Desk

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Recommended Citation

(2024) "From the Leadership Desk," *Wisdom & Compassion: The LUSON Journal*: Vol. 2: Iss. 1, Article 3.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/wctlj/vol2/iss1/3>

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From the Leadership Desk.....

Welcome to this month's issue of *Wisdom & Compassion*, where we explore the profound and often unseen work of nursing as it crosses boundaries of culture, geography, and human experience. In this edition, themed *Nurturing Hearts Across Cultures*, we highlight the incredible diversity of patient populations and cultural settings in which the art of nursing flourishes. Through the articles in this issue, we see how nursing is not just a profession but a calling—a vocation rooted in empathy, care, and a deep commitment to human dignity.

The mission of Liberty University and the Nursing School is rooted in the transformative power Christ and of education—nurturing not only the academic and professional capabilities of our students but also their moral and ethical compasses. We strive to equip our students with the knowledge and empathy required to address the multifaceted needs of diverse populations. nursing at its core, is a ministry of presence and service, a way to bring God's love to the world through hands-on care. This nurturing culture begins in the classroom, where faculty members are pivotal in creating an environment that encourages curiosity, respect, and inclusivity. It is within this setting that we model the virtues of compassion and integrity, foundational elements of effective nursing practice and leadership.

Our scholarship and research endeavors are equally committed to this vision of compassionate nursing education. Faculty and students collaborate on projects that address health disparities, culturally competent care, and innovative solutions to global health challenges. We recognize that in a world increasingly interconnected, the ability to provide culturally sensitive care is not a luxury but a necessity. The articles within this issue are a testament to the scholarly contributions that arise from this commitment. They remind us of the critical role that research plays in shaping how we nurture hearts across borders and belief systems, advocating for the most vulnerable populations.

Yet, it is in the real-world application where the heart of nursing truly shines. Our graduates carry the principles they learn at LUSON into hospitals, clinics, and communities both here at home and around the world. Whether they are comforting a family in a local emergency room, delivering care in underserved regions, or partnering with international health organizations, they embody the values of compassion and cultural humility. They are living examples of our mission in action: training Champions for Christ, offering care that transcends differences and reflects the boundless love of God.

Scriptures such as 1 John 4:7, "Let us love one another, for love comes from God," underscore the importance of fostering an environment where empathy and mutual respect are paramount. The impact of this nurturing culture extends beyond the academic sphere, influencing how our graduates engage with the world. By instilling values of empathy and respect, we prepare our students to act as culturally competent and compassionate practitioners in their professional roles. This preparedness is crucial in a globalized world where healthcare providers must navigate and honor diverse cultural contexts.

As you read through the diverse stories in this issue, we hope you will see how the theme of *Nurturing Hearts Across Cultures* is woven into the fabric of our work here at LUSON. It reflects our dedication to serving God by serving others—across every boundary, culture, and context. We are proud to contribute to the global community of nurses who, with each act of care, make the world a more compassionate place. As leaders within the Nursing School, we are entrusted with the responsibility to embody and propagate these principles, ensuring that they resonate through our teaching, research, and interactions with the world. By embracing a Biblical worldview and committing to a nurturing approach, we affirm our dedication to fostering a more compassionate and inclusive global community.

Thank you for joining us in this journey. Together, we can continue to nurture hearts and transform lives.

Jodi B. Duncan, Ph.D., FNP-C, CNE

Chair of DNP/APRN Programs