



SCHOOL OF NURSING

DEAN'S REPORT 2025

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
It is my honor to share the 2025 SIUE School of Nursing Annual Report with you. This year has been one of remarkable growth, innovation, and impact for our School — on our students, our region, and the nursing profession.

We are proud to be the **#1 producer of Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees in the St. Louis region**, accounting for 31% of all BSN degrees awarded, and the **second highest producer in Illinois**. Our enrollment growth is remarkable, and we continue to be proud of our NCLEX pass rates in our undergraduate program and certification pass rates in our graduate programs. This underscores the excellence of our programs and the dedication of our faculty and staff.

In October 2025, we proudly begin a new chapter as our students step into the classrooms, simulation center, and collaborative spaces of the **state-of-the-art Health Sciences Complex**. This 176,000-square-foot facility, shared with the School of Pharmacy, expands our capacity to prepare workforce-ready nurses while addressing the state’s nursing shortage. It also provides unmatched opportunities for **interprofessional education, simulation-based training, and regional partnerships** that will strengthen healthcare delivery for years to come.

Beyond academic achievements, our School continues to live out its mission through **scholarship, service, and community impact**. Faculty are involved in **13 high-impact grants** supporting innovative initiatives and student outcomes. Programs like the **WE CARE Asthma Trigger Assessment Program** bring care directly to families in our community, while student organizations such as the **Student Nurse Achievement Program (SNAP)** and the **Student Nurses Association (SNA)** are fostering leadership, inclusivity, and student success.

At the heart of our School are the stories of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. From senior Kaelyn Cupil, whose journey reflects the balance, resilience, and community spirit of an SIUE nursing student, to Golden Graduate Edgar J. Curtis, '75, whose 50-year career demonstrates the lasting impact of an SIUE education, our legacy of preparing nurses who lead with compassion and skill is stronger than ever.

As you read through this year’s report, I hope you share my pride in the incredible accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Together, we are shaping the future of healthcare — regionally, nationally, and globally — through the preparation of nurses who are ready to meet the needs of today and tomorrow.

Please come and visit us in our new building!
With gratitude and excitement for the future,

Judy Liesveld, PhD, PPCNP-BC, CNE, FAAN
Dean, SIUE School of Nursing



POINTS OF PRIDE

2024 CERTIFICATION PASS RATES

100%

for Family Nurse Practitioner,
Psych Mental Health Nurse Practitioner,
and Certificate Programs

97%

for Nurse Anesthesia program

#1

producer of
**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREES
IN NURSING IN THE ST. LOUIS REGION**,
accounting for 31% of the BSN degrees

ranked

#2

AMONG ALL ILLINOIS UNIVERSITIES

over
1,700

UNDERGRADUATE

and

360

GRADUATE

students are enrolled in the
School of Nursing; this includes our
first-year direct entry students

1,240

SIMULATIONS OCCUR
in our simulation center each year

94%

NCLEX PASS RATE FOR 2024
Bachelor of Science in Nursing students

13


FACULTY GRANTS
supporting scholarship, innovative initiatives,
and student outcomes

Nursing students began coursework in the
**NEW HEALTH SCIENCES COMPLEX
CLASSROOMS
AND SIMULATION CENTER**
in October 2025

INSIDE THE SIUE NURSING STUDENT EXPERIENCE

For senior nursing major Kaelyn Cupil, life at SIUE is a careful balancing of classes, clinicals, and campus involvement. Her days reflect not only the demands of nursing school, but also the supportive community she has built around herself.




Kaelyn lives in Evergreen Hall, SIUE's upperclass residence hall, where she has found both convenience and connection.

“

I like living on campus because it makes getting to class easier and has encouraged me to be more involved.



She stays active across campus, participating in the SIUE Gospel Choir, Black Student Union, Student Nurse Achievement Program, and the Student Nurse Association. She also works in the Office of Student Financial Aid, where she takes pride in supporting fellow students.

“

I enjoy making a direct impact on the lives of fellow students. It is a very rewarding job, and the financial aid staff works tirelessly to ensure student aid is applied accurately and on time.



Her nursing education has also been shaped by the mentorship of faculty, particularly Myjal Garner, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, instructor and family nurse practitioner.

“

Having Dr. Garner as a faculty member and mentor has changed my life for the better. She shows me every day that nurses can make a difference not only in the classroom and hospital, but also in the community, and that has inspired me to think about how I want to use my own career to give back.



Most evenings, you can find Kaelyn in the study rooms in her residence hall with her fellow nursing student friend, Rebecca Woods.

“

I enjoy the study rooms in each hall the most. They're open 24 hours, and I have spent many long study nights in them.

Looking ahead, Kaelyn is energized by what's next — both in the short and long term.

“

This school year, I am most looking forward to graduation in May. I am excited to dive into nursing and gain hands-on experience. SIUE has given me a great foundation to stand on, and I am excited for alumni life, finally. My ultimate dream is to return to SIUE to complete my master's degree and become a teacher for the School of Nursing.

“
When getting ready for clinical, I look forward to putting my shoes on. Once I put my shoes on, I know I will be on the hospital floor for the day, and I'm one clinical day closer to this being my real routine.



BRINGING ASTHMA CARE TO THE HOME

For the past nine years, the WE CARE Clinic has partnered with the Illinois Asthma Program (IAP) to provide asthma care in underserved communities in our local region. The Asthma Trigger Assessment Program is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Tobacco Settlement Recovery Funds, the IAP is administered by the Illinois Department of Public Health and guided by the Illinois Asthma Plan. Jerrica Ampadu, PhD, RN, CCP, interim assistant dean for graduate programs, spearheaded and helped grow the program over the past nine years. Myjal Garner, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, instructor of family health and community health nursing, began leading the asthma program this fall.



At the heart of this collaboration is a community-based approach. SIUE nursing faculty, undergraduate public health students, and public health graduate assistants provide home visits for residents of Madison and St. Clair counties that offer multi-component asthma services tailored to each patient’s needs.

Using a standardized assessment tool, the team evaluates each patient’s asthma symptoms and severity, quality of life, school or work absenteeism, and healthcare usage. They provide evidence-based Asthma Self-Management Education (AS-ME), referrals to the Illinois Tobacco Quitline, care coordination, and connections to community support services.

During each visit, the team inspects the home to identify and address common asthma triggers such as water damage from leaking roofs or gutters, mold and mildew, inadequate or missing HVAC filters, poorly sealed windows and doors, and household cleaning products with harsh chemicals or fragrances.

“We also assess the participant’s understanding of their asthma and prescribed treatments,” said Kerry Basarich, MSN, RN, coordinator of the Asthma Trigger Assessment Program. “After assessing their knowledge, we educate them on trigger reduction, recognition of symptoms, and correct medication use.”

More than 250 people with asthma and their caregivers have benefitted from asthma home visiting services since 2019.



STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION (SNA)

SNA is a pre-professional organization for the American Nurses Association that hosts fun and engaging events for nursing students and students considering a nursing major. Some of the events include an annual BBQ, Halloween parade, and trivia night. Other activities, such as SNA’s Skills Night, give students the opportunity to practice clinical techniques in a supportive environment and network with faculty and local healthcare professionals.

Together, these events foster connections among nursing students, faculty, administrators, staff, and potential future employers while helping members develop personally and professionally outside the classroom.

“Being involved in SNA has greatly enhanced my leadership skills and allowed me to form meaningful relationships with peers and faculty and immerse myself in impactful events,” said Kennadee Stilson, senior nursing major and president of SNA. “I feel incredibly lucky to be a part of it.”

Emphasizing the importance of leadership and inclusivity, faculty advisor Kelsey Massa, MSN, RN, CPN, shared, “I strive to serve as a positive role model to all SNA members by modeling professionalism, inclusivity, and collaboration. A key part of my role is to ensure the organization remains welcoming and representative of the values of the nursing profession and our School of Nursing. I want to empower the students to take the lead while ensuring I remain supportive and encouraging.”



STUDENT NURSE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (SNAP)

SNAP aims to increase workforce diversity by focusing on students from educationally underserved environments, offering them the academic and social resources needed for success in nursing.

- Core components of SNAP include:
- Faculty support and mentorship to promote academic excellence and personal development
 - Structured peer support to foster community and collaborative learning
 - Targeted academic assistance to help students meet their educational goals
 - Nursing Circles that allow students to plan and participate in social activities and community service, strengthening both academic and community engagement

As the SNAP faculty advisor, Keywana McDonald, MBA, MSN, RN, NE-BC, instructor, provides mentorship and program oversight, ensuring each student has the tools and confidence to succeed.

“Ultimately, my goal is to be a consistent source of encouragement, guidance, and support to help each student in SNAP thrive,” she said.





THE FUTURE OF NURSING AT SIUE

The new state-of-the-art, 176,000-square-foot Health Sciences Complex at SIUE marks the start of a transformative chapter, housing the SIUE Schools of Nursing and Pharmacy in the same building for the first time. The three-story facility is designed to mirror real-world healthcare settings, offering exam rooms, skill labs, immersive virtual reality experiences, and collaborative learning spaces. Classes began in the new space in the middle of the fall semester.

Illinois' nursing shortage is estimated to be 15,000. With the additional space and capacity the Health Sciences Complex will provide, School of Nursing enrollment, which currently stands at more than 1,700 students, has the potential to grow by nearly 30%. With 80% of nursing alumni working in the region, the impact on the nursing shortage could be significant.



Nursing Simulation Center

This facility provides immersive, high-stakes clinical simulation with life-like mannequins. A virtual reality bay transports students into a variety of emergency situations to hone clinical decision-making and judgment skills. Personnel from rural hospitals, agencies, and nursing homes may also upskill in this collaborative atmosphere.

Nursing Command Hub

The Nursing Command Hub builds workforce-ready nurses devoted to coordination, communication, and patient safety. "Grand rounds" can be conducted where both nursing and pharmacy students develop shared goals and action plans for each patient.



Vital Scenarios Suite

The Vital Scenarios Suite equips learners to respond confidently to trauma, surgery, labor and delivery, and emergency scenarios under the watchful eye of faculty within control rooms.

Standardized Patient Suite

The standardized patient suite delivers clinical learning with simulated patient encounters using volunteer actors and case studies. Pre-briefing and debriefing rooms allow nursing and pharmacy students to support meaningful feedback and evaluation.

Grand Lecture Suites

These suites facilitate interprofessional education across the health sciences, support continuing education for regional professionals, and serve as a venue for industry conferences and events.



Goodbye, Alumni Hall — where decades of memories and milestones were made.



Learn more about the Health Sciences Complex.



siue.edu/health-sciences-complex

GET TO KNOW AMY REED, PhD, RN

Director of the Simulated Learning Center for Health Sciences and
Assistant Professor in the Department of Primary Care and Health Systems Nursing

When did you join the School of Nursing faculty?
I joined SIUE in January 2013 as a full-time lecturer after completing my master’s in nursing education at SIUE. I later finished my PhD in nursing at the University of Missouri and transitioned into a tenure-track role.



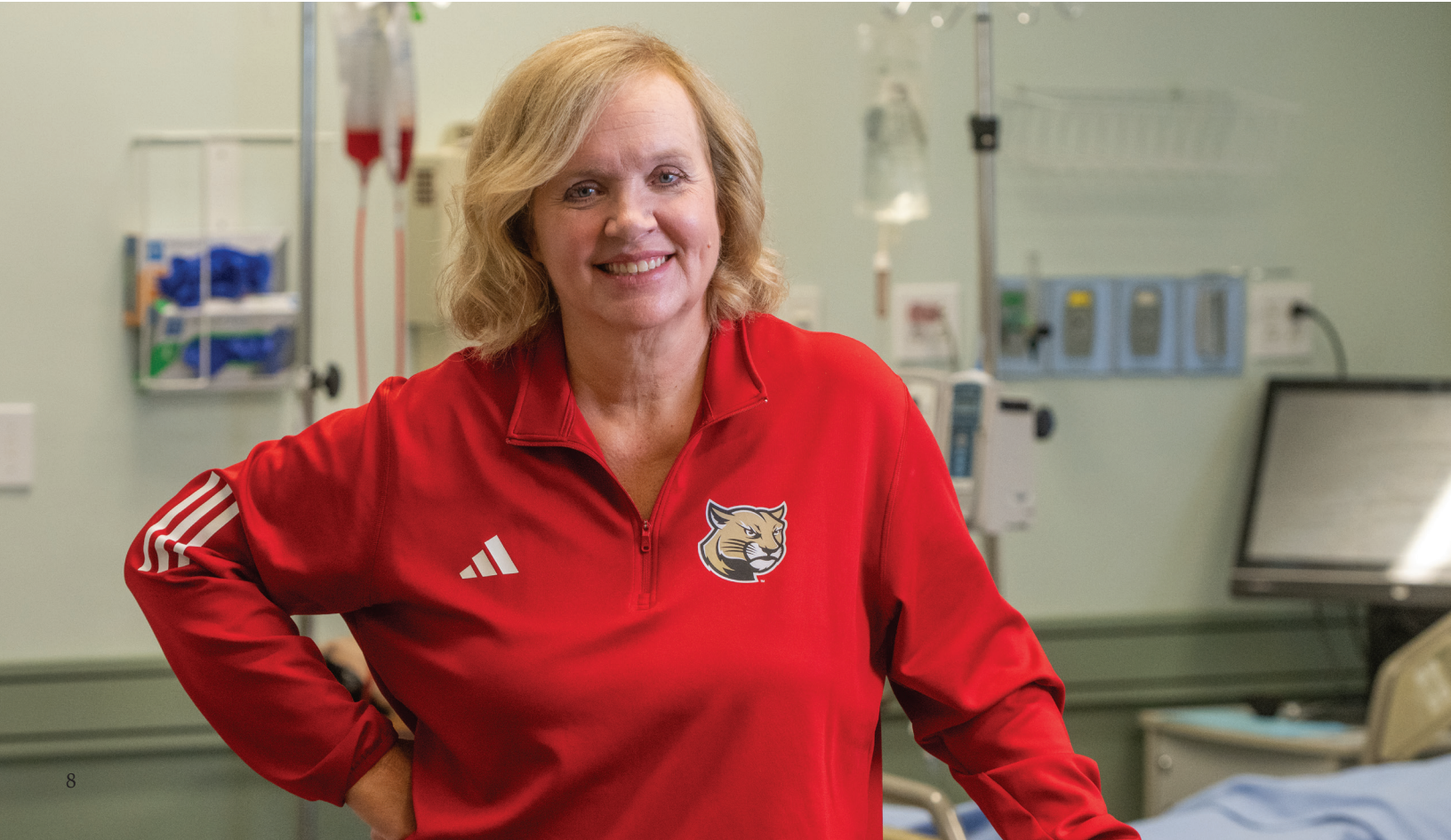
The SIUE School of Nursing fosters a strong sense of community and a commitment to excellence in teaching and practice.

Amy Reed, PhD, RN

What makes the School of Nursing special?
SIUE’s School of Nursing fosters a strong sense of community and commitment to excellence in teaching and practice. Our faculty care deeply about student success and create supportive, evidence-based learning environments. We continually adapt to meet the needs of students, clinical partners, and the healthcare landscape. There’s a shared commitment to developing competent, compassionate, practice-ready nurses.

Tell us about your dual role as a director and assistant professor.
As director of the Simulation Learning Center, I oversee the planning, implementation, and continuous improvement of simulation-based learning experiences. I collaborate with faculty and staff to ensure simulation is evidence-based, student-centered, and aligned with curricular objectives. As an assistant professor, my research focuses on maternal health, social determinants of health, and educational innovations. I teach, mentor graduate students, serve on committees, and support curriculum development.

How will the expanded simulation spaces in the new Health Sciences Complex enhance our students’ experience?
The student learning experience will be significantly enhanced with updated, state-of-the-art simulation environments that replicate real-world healthcare settings. With dedicated spaces for specialty areas such as a virtual reality/augmented reality space, students will be more deeply immersed in diverse patient care experiences. The facility also supports seamless interprofessional collaboration with the School of Pharmacy and other disciplines.



DANIELLE ALLEN, EdD: ADVANCING STUDENT SUCCESS

The School of Nursing is strengthening its recruitment and retention efforts to support students from admission through graduation. Efforts include expanding awareness of its programs through targeted outreach and engaging prospective and current students in meaningful conversation. A key leader in this work is Danielle Allen, EdD, director of Student Services.

Allen joined the School of Nursing in October 2023. She oversees enrollment management strategies, supervises staff, and collaborates with faculty and campus leaders to ensure programs remain current and student-centered.

“Our department provides students with personal and academic resources while fostering a supportive environment for their success,” said Allen. “My focus is to create a seamless student experience that supports academic success, promotes student engagement, fosters retention, and prepares our graduates for the next step in their professional journey.”



My focus is to create a seamless student experience that supports academic success, promotes engagement, fosters retention, and prepares our graduates for the next step in their professional journey.

Danielle Allen, EdD
Director of Student Services

Allen recently earned a Doctor of Education with an emphasis in educational practice and a focus on college access, career readiness, and student support services in higher education. Furthering her education demonstrates her dedication to creating opportunity and success for students at SIUE.

“As a Black, first-generation college graduate and a product of East St. Louis schools, I understand the systemic barriers many students face — limited resources, a lack of mentorship, and challenges with belonging,” Allen said. “With my doctorate, I am able to expand my ability to influence policies and practices that remove barriers, strengthen advising and retention efforts, and create a more equitable pathway for all students to reach their academic and career goals.”



2025 AACN STUDENT POLICY SUMMIT

Dean Judy Liesveld, PhD, PPCNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, and senior nursing student Lucia Botella Vian represented the School of Nursing at the 2025 American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Student Policy Summit in Washington, D.C.

“Attending the summit was a transformational experience that forever shaped how I view my role in healthcare — not just as a future nurse, but as an informed advocate, empowered leader, and active participant in shaping the future of nursing policy,” said Botella Vian.

The two-day program featured sessions on health policy, nursing leadership, and advocacy, and included meetings with congressional staff on Capitol Hill. Participants presented federal priorities, including increased funding for nursing workforce development and nurse-led research, incentives for nurse preceptors, preservation of student aid programs, and support for the Congressional Nursing Caucus.

“I gained a deeper understanding of the policy process and why nurses belong at every table where healthcare decisions are made,” Botella Vian continued. “I now feel prepared to speak to lawmakers, write effective policy briefs, engage in strategic advocacy, and empower others to do the same.”



I find purpose in learning, listening, and preparing thoughtfully to contribute to meaningful, just, and lasting change.

Lucia Botella Vian
Senior Nursing Student

“It was such a pleasure to sponsor Lucia to accompany me to Washington D.C. for the Student Policy Summit,” said Dean Judy Liesveld. “On the last day of the summit, we visited several Illinois congressional offices on Capitol Hill with other nursing leaders and students from Illinois. My goal is to sponsor students each year to learn about policy and advocacy.”

Botella Vian plans to remain actively involved in advocacy, which she describes as one of her greatest passions.

“I believe advocacy takes many forms, ranging from addressing everyday student concerns within an institution to engaging in broader policy efforts that shape education, healthcare, and social equity,” she said. “I’m particularly committed to advocating for those whose voices are often overlooked, whether that’s within the academic environment or in larger systems like healthcare.”

GOLDEN GRADUATE EDGAR J. CURTIS



Fifty years ago, Edgar J. Curtis, '75, walked across the commencement stage to receive his bachelor's in nursing from SIUE. In May 2025, he walked across the stage again as one of SIUE's Golden Graduates being recognized at this year's commencement ceremony.

SIUE's Golden Graduation recognizes and celebrates alumni who crossed the commencement stage 50 or more years ago. Since its inception in 2017, the annual reunion has given alumni the opportunity to reconnect with classmates while celebrating their time on campus and their commitment to SIUE.

Prior to the commencement ceremony, Curtis spoke to his fellow Golden Graduates at a special luncheon held in their honor. In his remarks, he reflected on the formative experiences he had at SIUE.

“As a nursing student, I completed clinical rotations at nearly 20 different hospitals,” Curtis shared. “That’s not something you fully appreciate when you’re lugging around textbooks and trying to figure out new charting systems every few weeks. But looking back now, I see what an extraordinary gift it was.”



We stand as living proof of what this University makes possible. We are part of its legacy and also its future.

Edgar J. Curtis '75
President Emeritus of Springfield Memorial Health
SIUE Board of Trustee Member

He also expressed appreciation for SIUE's lasting impact. “As graduates, we owe a great deal to SIUE,” he said. “It’s inspiring to see all the progress and positive change that has taken place on campus over the past 50 years.”

Curtis concluded his message to fellow alumni emphasizing the shared legacy they carry forward.



SIUE, ANDERSON HEALTHCARE PARTNER TO STRENGTHEN NURSING EDUCATION

Anderson Healthcare in Maryville is helping shape the future of healthcare in the region through a lead gift supporting SIUE’s Health Sciences Complex and the School of Nursing.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to work closely with Anderson Healthcare on the formation of an innovative and collaborative clinical partnership program,” said Dean Judy Liesveld.

With their generous lead gift, the School of Nursing and Anderson Healthcare are forming an innovative clinical partnership designed to advance nursing education, practice, scholarship, and workforce development.



By strengthening nursing education at SIUE, we are ensuring that more students graduate well prepared to enter the workforce. Anderson Healthcare is proud to play a part in shaping that future.

Lisa Spencer ‘93, ‘01, MSN, RN, FACHE
President of Anderson Hospital

On the third floor of the new Health Sciences Complex, two spaces will be named in Anderson’s honor: the Anderson Healthcare Learning Lab and the Anderson Healthcare Student Collaboration Center. These spaces will be used extensively by undergraduate students to develop nursing skills and teamwork competencies.

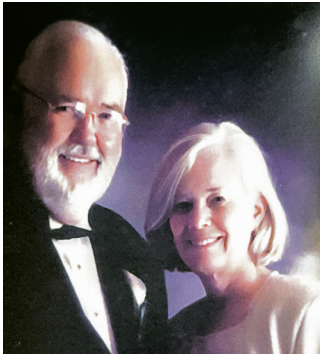
“Anderson Healthcare believes that partnerships like this one with SIUE are essential for creating a stronger healthcare system,” said President of Anderson Hospital, Lisa Spencer, MSN, RN, FACHE. “This collaboration directly supports workforce development by creating opportunities for students to gain high-quality education and training close to home.”

Spencer, a two-time alumna of the School of Nursing, earned both her bachelor’s and master’s from SIUE. Reflecting on her SIUE experience, Spencer noted how meaningful it is that Anderson Healthcare is partnering with the University that shaped her career.

“My time at SIUE provided me with the academic foundation and the leadership skills that have carried me throughout my career,” she said. “The mentorship I received, and the connections and friendships made at SIUE continue to influence how I approach challenges and opportunities today.”



THE SALLY S. FERGUSON RESOURCE CENTER AND STUDENT COMMONS



Sally Ferguson, who passed away in 2021, was known for many things – her love of traveling, visiting nearly 70 countries with her husband, Judge Edward Ferguson; buying local crafts and artwork from street vendors; and creating her own art through quilting. She was also deeply committed to higher education and to SIUE.

“I wanted to continue our contributions to SIUE in Sally’s name as a way to think of her and thank SIUE for being such an important part of our family’s community,” continued Judge Edward. “Our family wanted to give to something that would let people see her name and remember the difference she made.”

The new space will stand as a symbol of the Ferguson family’s continued commitment to SIUE and future generations of healthcare professionals. It’s also a lasting way to keep Sally’s name and spirit alive in the institution to which she gave so much.



Sally was one of the smartest people I’ve ever met – extraordinarily inquisitive and dedicated to making SIUE a better place. It’s fitting that her name will be part of a space that supports nursing students, an area she helped prosper.

David Werner, PhD
SIUE Chancellor Emeritus

Her legacy at SIUE began in 1969, working in the Center for Urban and Environmental Research and Services. In 1980, she earned an MBA and was named director of Institutional Research and Studies, continuing in that position until her retirement in 2007.

“She loved her job,” said Judge Ferguson. “One thing Sally always talked about and reinforced was how wonderful SIUE was.”

To honor her life and contributions, the Ferguson family has made a gift to name a space in the Health Sciences Complex: the Sally S. Ferguson Resource Center and Student Commons. Established by her husband and children, the space is located on the second floor of the new complex and will be a welcoming area for students to gather, study, and connect.

School of Nursing
Alumni Hall, Room 2117
Campus Box 1066
Edwardsville, IL 62026

DEGREE PROGRAMS

The SIUE School of Nursing is leading the way in nursing education in the St. Louis metro region and downstate Illinois. Our progressive and innovative programs prepare nursing graduates for successful careers in the rapidly evolving and complex healthcare environment of the future.

Bachelor of Science

- Traditional BS in Nursing
- Post-baccalaureate Accelerated BS in Nursing
- Accelerated RN to BS Nursing*

Master of Science

- Healthcare and Nursing Administration*
- Healthcare and Nursing Administration/Healthcare Informatics*
- Nurse Educator*

Doctor of Nursing Practice

- Specializations
 - Family Nurse Practitioner
 - Nurse Anesthesia
 - Post-Master's DNP*
 - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner*
 - DNP/MBA

*Online degree program

Apply today!
siue.edu/apply

