

California Endowment-AACN 2008 Minority Nurse Faculty Scholarship Awardees

Margaret Avila is a PhD candidate at the University of San Diego where her area of interest is Public Health Nursing and Social Justice. She currently works as the Assistant Director of the ADN program in the Nursing Department at Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. As a nurse educator, Margaret's areas are Community/Public Health Nursing, Women's Health, Gerontology, Fundamentals, and Mental Health Nursing. In October 2007, she was named "Nurse of the Year" by the National Association of Hispanic Nurses.



Jeneva Gularte is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of California-San Francisco with a clinical emphasis on Cardiovascular and Genomics. In addition to her doctoral studies, she works at the Sutter Transplant and Outpatient Heart Specialty Clinic, specializing in heart failure. Jeneva possesses valuable clinical teaching experience that will serve her well in her role as a future nurse faculty member.

Maria Matza is a doctoral student at the University of San Diego working on her PhD. Her clinical interests encompass family health, vulnerable populations-mental health, and Chron's disease. Maria has been teaching at Azusa Pacific University since 2002. For five years, she was President of the Orange County Chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses Association where she provided leadership on a regional level. She continues to serve on their Board of Directors and mentors new leaders. She also served a 6-year term as President of the California School Nurse Organization-Southern Section.



Soo Kyung Park, a PhD candidate at the University of California-San Francisco, is focusing her clinical studies on Pulmonary and ICU Nursing. She is developing strong skills as a nurse scientist by working as a research assistant on a grant from the National Institute of Health. To facilitate her teaching skills, Soo has a minor in Education and plans to complete here doctoral program in May 2009.

Vanessa Parker is in the Clinical Nurse Leader program at California State University-Dominguez Hills. She has held a number of national, regional, and local leadership positions on journal review committees, grant review committees, and health-policy steering committees for HIV, cancer, teen pregnancy, and tobacco. She has a doctoral degree from the University of California School of Medicine in Preventive Medicine-Health Behavior Research and is interested in focusing her nursing on Pediatrics and Education.



Maria Rodriguez is enrolled in a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at the University of San Diego. She currently works as the Director of Education at San Diego Kindred Hospital. With plans to complete her DNP degree by 2010, Maria is looking forward to moving ahead in her career as a nurse educator.