

NEWSLETTER

Dumke College of Health Professions

FALL 2021

Welcome back Wildcats!

What a year it's been! As we all feel the effects of a pandemic world, changes in our routes and alterations to our new environment, I equally want to take the time to reflect on the strides that have allowed us to be able to conquer our challenges.

At the Dumke College of Health Professions (DCHP), we've been turning opportunity into action. Our faculty and staff have dedicated their past year to ensuring our students receive the same high-quality education we strive after for our future healthcare professionals. They've committed overtime toward securing clinical rotation hours and access, educated through different outlets to reach our student population, and guaranteed that even when our world is disconnected we continue to learn through connection. I admire our strength and resilience across the healthcare community, from our students to faculty, from our technologist, respiratory therapists, and nurses to our physicians, and everyone in between. It's truly a wonder what we can achieve through collaboration and determination.

In this newsletter, we've spotlighted what we've done and how that's led us to where we are going. We welcome new Wildcats to the DCHP family and new programs. As we embark on a new academic year, we encourage you to stay connected with us and have provided some different opportunities to do just that, after all, we are better together.



Yasmen Simonian
Dean & Brady Presidential Distinguish Professor

Internal Scan

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WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
Dumke College of Health Professions

New Wildcats

Meet & Greet

Nursing new hire Michele Morrill said she's looking forward to helping students succeed but also wants to work on her personal growth. "I want to hone and develop my teaching style while continuing to learn and grow as both a nurse and educator." Morrill said.

Eric Bottelberghe says that WSU has been a large part of his nursing career and he wants to make Weber his home.

NURSING

"This program has amazing people that focus on helping their students achieve all that they can be. Rick Martin from Health Administration Services said. "I want to continue helping students achieve their dreams, whatever they may be, in the Healthcare Industry."

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Amber Fowler started her higher education journey at Weber State, but an injury took her to a different state to finish her nursing degree. "I loved my time at Weber. I have run many miles on the campus and around it, and the area is beautiful!" Fowler said. "I am looking forward to working with staff and students in a positive culture. I love the spirit of Weber State and cannot wait to be among so many brilliant minds."

NURSING

The Dumke College of Health Professions brings people from all different backgrounds and places to Weber. April Jons relocated her and her family from Oregon just this summer. Before she came to Weber she worked as a program assistant for a prison community college.

DENTAL HYGIENE

Skills Include: COVID-19 Experience

With 17 months of COVID-19 experience, we have all become inherent to adaptation. As requirements and protocols change with regularity, healthcare is often left having to respond swiftly and accurately. With a fourth wave in tow, we are reminded to learn from our practical knowledge.

At the Dumke College of Health Professions we know science is not the argument, it's the standard, disaster brings resilience and light to inequalities, and there's never been a better time to reconsider how we conserve, connect and care. We're examining what it takes to transition a challenge into an opportunity. So far, we've discovered that change is not a stationary end goal but instead a fluid reaction. With healthcare organizations experiencing high turnover and burnout rates, and a record number of employees having no plans to return to the field, our education has to accommodate the conflicts and balances.

With the CARES Act, we've been able to take changes in strides. Starting with upgrades to our mannequins and equipment in the simulation lab, this has provided students with better hands-on experience and allows us to operate in remote learning environments—in addition to our physical locations at Ogden and Davis campus, and partnering centers at the Bridgerland Technical College and Ogden-Weber Technical College. These advancements ensure our students will receive training when clinical experiences are unavailable and equally allow us to discover out-of-the-box opportunities for remote education.

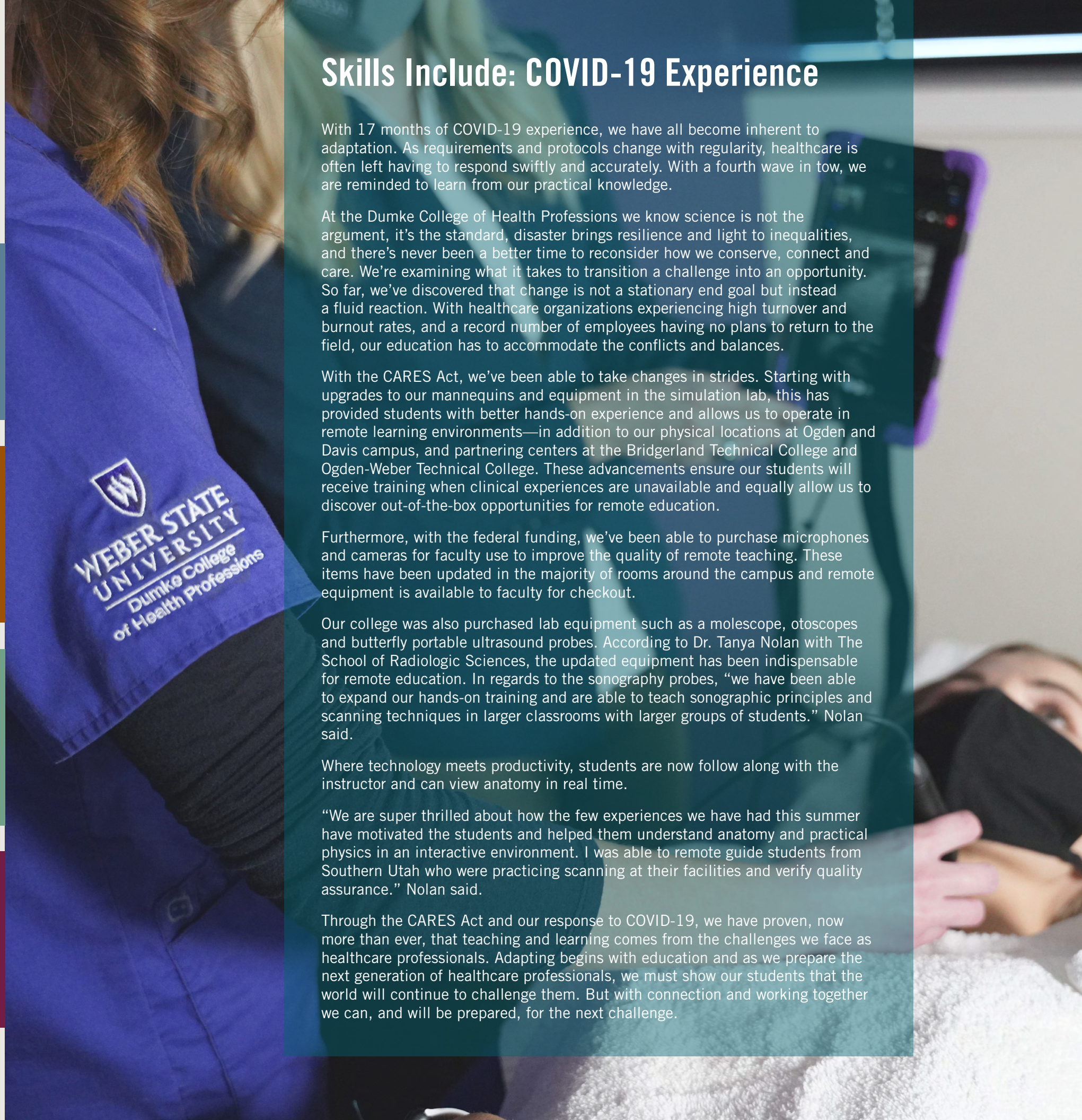
Furthermore, with the federal funding, we've been able to purchase microphones and cameras for faculty use to improve the quality of remote teaching. These items have been updated in the majority of rooms around the campus and remote equipment is available to faculty for checkout.

Our college was also purchased lab equipment such as a molescope, otoscopes and butterfly portable ultrasound probes. According to Dr. Tanya Nolan with The School of Radiologic Sciences, the updated equipment has been indispensable for remote education. In regards to the sonography probes, "we have been able to expand our hands-on training and are able to teach sonographic principles and scanning techniques in larger classrooms with larger groups of students." Nolan said.

Where technology meets productivity, students are now follow along with the instructor and can view anatomy in real time.

"We are super thrilled about how the few experiences we have had this summer have motivated the students and helped them understand anatomy and practical physics in an interactive environment. I was able to remote guide students from Southern Utah who were practicing scanning at their facilities and verify quality assurance." Nolan said.

Through the CARES Act and our response to COVID-19, we have proven, now more than ever, that teaching and learning comes from the challenges we face as healthcare professionals. Adapting begins with education and as we prepare the next generation of healthcare professionals, we must show our students that the world will continue to challenge them. But with connection and working together we can, and will be prepared, for the next challenge.



Rewarding Challenges: Mary Madsen

Mary Madsen, a 2020 Annie Taylor Dee School of Nursing graduate, didn't have an easy or typical path to a career in nursing. Madsen had pursued a Bachelor's in Psychology when she took time off to start a family. When her youngest son was diagnosed with diabetes, her husband told her she should go back to school in nursing since she was always taking care of him.

Madsen finished her last credits for her Bachelor's and then registered to pursue a nursing degree. Soon after, her husband suffered a stroke while recovering from surgery, and later went into heart failure. After these turn of events, Madsen knew that going back to school was the right choice. "Going back to school is hard, and you kind of feel a lot of doubts" Madsen said.

But she persevered and is now working at the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City, in Clinic 2B.

Going to nursing school can take a lot of time and effort. For Madsen, being a mom, wife, caregiver and going to nursing school was no easy feat. Madsen said that the professors and their open door policy really helped her to be able to succeed.

"It helped me to accomplish my goals and also at the same time be the mom I wanted to be to my kids" Madsen said.

She added that it was easy for her to feel alone because she felt so much older than her other classmates but, because of the professors, especially Marlene Summers, Rieneke Holman and Tressa Quayle, she was able to gain the confidence she needed to succeed.

Madsen learned a lot of life skills and lessons in her education. While she learned the practical skills of being a nurse she also learned how to set goals and how to accomplish them. "This experience isn't easy, whatever we are going through, but we learn and get better. I think that's what being a student taught me." Madsen said.

Madsen learned and tries to teach her kids that working towards a goal, even if you're not perfect, is rewarding and you can grow along the way. Through her education experience at DCHP, Madsen could have easily felt alone but, because of the professors and nursing program she was able to get the help she needed and make connections with others. Working towards a nursing degree or any healthcare related degree can be a challenge, but Madsen's determination shows that even in hard times, healthcare can be a rewarding experience.

Providing Providers

Hey boomer, did you know that most of you have hit retirement age? Although this is an exciting point in your life filled with new adventures, it's creating some shocking population statistics. For example, according to the US Census Bureau, it is estimated that by 2032 those over the age of 65 will increase by 45%. And currently, 43% of all physicians are age 55 or older which means we have a higher demand for care and shorter supply of providers. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) predicts a shortage of 120,000 by 2032. Narrowing in on this from a Utah perspective, to maintain Utah's current 100,000 population to physician ratio, the state will need to average 116 new physicians to the workforce each year through 2030.

At Weber State University, the Dumke College of Health Professions wants to address this issue now and we are excited to introduce our new Physician Assistant program! This program will be joining the other 9 prestigious departments and schools within the college and accepting the first cohort in fall 2023.

Curated and inspired by Weber's unique approach in higher education, we plan to build our PA curriculum with that same connected approach that WSU offers in personalized education experiences. In addition to the standardized education that PA students receive, our program will be one of the first to offer an emphasis in hospitalist medicine. This will allow students to graduate with a diverse set of applicable and critical thinking skills relevant to any healthcare and leadership setting.

With PA's being able to provide many of the same services as a physician, this role in healthcare is crucial to filling the gap in high-quality care, while at a low cost with more accessibility to access care. Because of these positive community impacts, we are thrilled to be welcoming these new providers to our graduating classes!

However, we can't do it without you. The undertaking and success of this program will depend heavily on our community resources and the connections we can secure for our students. If you have the opportunity to assist us with a resource, funding or preceptorship for our students, we would love to connect with you. Please reach out to our new Clinical Education Director, Kenton Cummins at kentoncummins@weber.edu, because together connections strengthen us!

Connect with us

We want to connect with you! We want to feature our alumni and students. We want to get interprofessional with our clinical partners and highlight the healthcare community.

As we consistently seek new ideas to integrate, collide, and develop long-lasting relationships, don't hesitate to reach out to us at dchpmarketing@weber.edu and see how you can get involved!

weber.edu/chp



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**WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Dumke College
of Health Professions

Together we are Weber

Together we save lives

Ezekiel R. Dumke Jr. & Katherine W. Dumke
CENTER FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL
EDUCATION IN HEALTH CARE

**CONNECTIONS
STRENGTHEN US**