

Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Society Annual Report

2025–2026

Note from the Director

As I reflect on the 2025–2026 academic year, I am grateful for the growth, collaboration, and impact of the Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Society. This year, we worked to expand opportunities for students through scholarships and new learning experiences, grew our affiliate faculty community, strengthened community partnerships, and deepened our global connections across multiple continents. Our work touched many corners of the Institute’s mission, though there is always more to do. We continued our partnership with the Center for Rural Behavioral Health, contributing to program planning, grant writing, and helping launch new mental health services at the Health Commons at Pond in Bloomington. We grew our affiliate faculty network and the coordination that supports it, and took on greater responsibility for the CRIISIS module, working to strengthen communication with our partner institutions abroad.

We also tried to deepen our support for the DNP program, serving on the DNP student selection committee and helping DNP students pursue publication of their scholarly work. Our Becky Taylor Fellows program grew this year, with more DNP student fellows interviewed and awarded, and DNP students were offered new opportunities to study abroad in Japan as part of our developing global partnerships. Our visiting Japanese exchange program continued to grow, alongside our student language partner program, which saw more participants recruited, trained, and awarded scholarships. We also worked to broaden our social media and communications efforts to better share the Institute’s story.

On the global front, we helped get a new summer camp initiative off the ground, supported the continued growth of our summer program at OMPU in Japan, and helped faculty participate in international conferences including MNRS, IFNA, and the upcoming STTI conference in Thailand, building on the launch of Austria’s first advanced practice nursing master’s program focused on family and community health, and connecting more than 800 students through international online learning. Locally, we partnered with Global Education at MSU to help organize the Ubuntu event with the Mankato community.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our students, faculty, affiliate members, advisory board, community partners, and supporters, it is their work, more than anything, that we’re proud to reflect on this year. We remain committed to learning, listening, and supporting a vision of nursing that extends beyond individual care to address the social, cultural, and structural factors that shape health, and to preparing nurse leaders who can help build healthier futures for families and communities around the world.

Hans-Peter de Ruiter, RN, PhD

Our Mission

The mission of The Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Society is to focus on innovative nursing practice knowledge that influences the health and healing of families and society, and to provide leadership and expertise in family and society health related issues.

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Strategic Areas of Focus

1. Teaching and Education
2. Research and Scholarship
3. Interdisciplinary and Global Partnerships
4. Community Engagement and Practice

2025–2026 Highlights

This year, GTNI's reach and impact continued to grow across every strategic area. From a rapidly expanding online community to record affiliate faculty membership to a landmark anniversary in global collaboration, the numbers and stories below reflect a year of momentum.

- **Scholarships and Student Support.** This year, the Institute awarded 30 scholarships ranging from \$100 to \$2500. The funding ranged from pre-nursing students who signed up to be language partners to our Becky Taylor Fellows who are completing the highest level of nursing practice degrees. Every dollar awarded is graciously accepted and appreciated by our students, and we are grateful to Glen and Becky Taylor who gave us the ability to make an impact in this way on students. The total amount of funds given out to students was \$56,000
- **LinkedIn Growth.** GTNI launched its new LinkedIn page in August 2026, and has already grown to 775+ followers, with regular engagement that is expanding the Institute's reach across the nursing community and beyond.
- **New Affiliate Faculty.** This year, GTNI welcomed 27 new affiliate faculty members, the largest cohort in the Institute's history. Faculty members represent diversity across disciplines and geography, hailing from the U.S., New Zealand, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Australia and Spain.
- **15 Years of Global Nursing Collaboration.** GTNI marked 15 years of partnership with institutions in Austria, a milestone celebrated in Salzburg and representing more than 1,800 students engaged through collaborative programs over that time.
- **CRIISIS COIL Connections.** Online collaborative learning through the CRIISIS COIL program connected students across 17 partner universities in 11 countries, with more than 800 students engaged through online initiatives this year.

Teaching & Education

GTNI continued to expand its interdisciplinary and real-world learning opportunities in 2025–2026, bringing community voices into the classroom and extending the Institute's educational reach.

Classroom Conversations That Connect

Senior nursing students in the Families in Crisis course heard from Erin Simmons ('00), MSU alumna and Executive Director of MyPlace, who shared insights from her work with children, adolescents and adults who have experienced trauma. Drawing on her experience with trauma-informed, community-based approaches, Simmons helped students connect theory to practice and underscored the critical role of partnership and advocacy in nursing. MyPlace is a valued community partner of GTNI, and this collaboration reflects the Institute's ongoing commitment to learning that is grounded in real community relationships.

Students in the NURS 465 course also benefited from an honest and open conversation about lived experience when Nicole Lewis ('14), Kara Will ('14), Janell Christenson and Kevin Mettler joined the class to discuss Drug Court. Conversations like these prepare future nurses to meet patients where they are,

with compassion and without judgment.

Senior nursing students also had the opportunity to learn directly from Veterans, including Chase Arden, resident Gordy and Eric Meittunen ('92), Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Healthcare at the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. Meittunen, now a GTNI affiliate faculty member, helped students better understand the unique social and medical challenges Veterans face daily and the importance of culturally competent, compassionate care.

A Global First in Austria

GTNI's international educational impact reached a new milestone this year when partner institution Fachhochschule Kärnten launched Austria's first master's program in Advanced Practice Nursing with a dedicated focus on family and community health. The inaugural cohort welcomed 17 students, and GTNI Director Hans-Peter de Ruiter delivered the program's very first lecture, exploring the Advanced Practice Nurse role from a global perspective. This moment represents years of relationship building in action.

Research & Dissemination

GTNI supported a range of research and dissemination efforts throughout the 2025–2026 academic year, with faculty and international partners contributing new frameworks, publications and scholarly recognition across the field of family and societal nursing.

Well-Represented in the Field

- Affiliate faculty member Tammy Neiman represented the Institute at the Family Research Meeting at MNRS 2026. Also in attendance were affiliate faculty members Maya Bastian, Sarah Ogilvie and Rachels Schickling.
- Institute Coordinator, Lynn Kuechle and Director Hans-Peter de Ruiter attended the SSSP meeting in Chicago, where Hans facilitated an Institutional Ethnography session as well as a workshop.

A New Framework for Societal Nursing

One of the year's most significant scholarly contributions was the publication of the Societal Health & Nursing Framework, developed through collaboration among GTNI faculty and international partners. Building on the Institute's founding commitment to understanding how society influences nursing, and how nursing shapes society, the framework expands nursing's focus beyond individual care to include the broader social, cultural and structural factors that impact health and well-being. This [publication](#) represents a collective effort years in the making and is intended to spark continued dialogue, collaboration and innovation in the field.

Faculty Publications and Recognition

Affiliate faculty member Tammy Neiman led a qualitative study published in [Storytelling, Self, Society](#) exploring nurses' lived experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic through the lens of storytelling. The full authorship team included David Clisbee, Patricia Beierwaltes, Lynn Kuechle, Rebecca Bromelkamp and Sandra Eggenberger.

Affiliate faculty Sandra Richardson and Anna Richardson published an article in [The Nursing Clinics of North America](#) introducing a Cultural Safety model to guide emergency responses to discrimination, biases and inequities in healthcare.

Affiliate faculty Ellen Vorbeck, Louisa Krueger and Ellen Johnson published a systematic review in the [Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practices](#) examining online teaching certification, finding that specialized skills are required for effective online education and that certification meaningfully improves educator effectiveness.

Advisory Board member Sonja Meiers and her team at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire published work advancing family nursing science, with a scoping review examining nursing strategies that

enhance patient and family perceptions of compassionate care, published in the [International Journal of Nursing Studies](#).

An article published in [Frontiers in Education](#) highlighted GTNI's international collaborative project, with a global authorship team including affiliate faculty Dennis Demedts, Julia Gloesmann, Itoko Tobita and Director Hans-Peter de Ruiter among the contributors.

A Foundational Legacy

Founding Director Sandra Eggenberger's doctoral dissertation from the University of California, San Francisco was cited as a foundational source in a systematic review and meta-analysis of nurse-family communication interventions in the ICU, published by the Society of Critical Care Medicine. The review drew on her work to affirm that nurse-family interactions characterized by empathetic presence, time commitment and information sharing significantly shape family members' ICU experiences.

Interdisciplinary & Global Partnerships

Global collaboration remained a defining strength of the Institute in 2025–2026, with new connections formed, long-standing partnerships deepened and GTNI's presence felt across continents.

CRISIS COIL

The CRISIS Collaborative Online International Learning program completed another successful year, bringing together students and faculty from 17 partner universities across 11 countries, including Japan, South Africa, the United States, Austria, Denmark, Finland, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Thailand, Belgium and Indonesia. Students explored complex global health challenges while building intercultural collaboration skills and engaging with the UN Sustainable Development Goals through Global Citizenship Education. The Class of 2025 at Minnesota State University, Mankato marked the completion of the program with a collective celebration, honoring both their own achievements and the peers they worked alongside.

Japanese University Partnerships

GTNI welcomed visiting students and faculty from Kansai Medical University and Osaka Medical and Pharmaceutical University for a program that included a tour of Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato and attendance at the MSU College of Allied Health and Nursing's 2026 Health Summit, Rooted in Wellness: Advancing Rural Youth Health. The group was welcomed by Provost David Hood during their visit. Dean Kato and her team from Kansai Medical University also made a separate visit earlier in the year to meet with MSU deans and team members ahead of a return trip with 14 students.

Connections Across Borders

Director Hans-Peter de Ruiter attended a conference in Miami organized by the Dutch Probation Department, Reclassering Nederland, focused on the critical role of family in working with people who are detained, including those facing deportation after long periods of incarceration in the United States. The experience reinforced GTNI's commitment to family-oriented, interdisciplinary research.

De Ruiter also connected with Martin Nagl-Cupal, who represents Austria for the International Family Nursing Association and teaches at the University of Vienna, for a conversation about shared work in strengthening family nursing across borders.

Community Engagement & Practice

GTNI deepened its connections with community partners throughout 2025–2026, advancing the Institute's commitment to nursing practice that extends beyond the clinical setting and into the lives of families and communities.

Conference Sponsorship

In June, 2025, GTNI served as sponsor of the International Family Nursing Association conference held in Perth, Australia. The theme, Promoting Family Strengths in Challenging Times, aligns with the Institute's focus on the health and healing of families and society. Nine first author presentations were accepted from the Institute, and five members were able to attend in person.

VA Homes of Minnesota

MSU leaders met with partners from the VA Homes of Minnesota to discuss future student clinical placement opportunities, a collaboration with meaningful implications for both students and Veterans. During the visit, affiliate faculty member and MSU alumnus Eric Meittunen '92, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Healthcare at the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, presented Director Hans-Peter de Ruiter with the MDVA Challenge Coin, honoring his years of dedication to advancing Veteran-centered nursing education and building programs that strengthen cultural competency in nursing.

Health Commons at the Pond

GTNI's flagship clinical partnership with Bloomington Public Schools continued to demonstrate its value to students and families this year. Affiliate faculty member Sarah Ogilvie continued her work serving students and families in the Bloomington School District, and the clinic's counseling students and professionals provided mental health services integral to the health and well-being of the community. Health Commons at the Pond also presented at the Minnesota School Based Health Center Alliance's first statewide summit in November 2025, joining more than 250 participants from across the state in a growing conversation about the power of school-based health centers to create communities where students feel safe and supported.

Summer Camp Community Health Internship

GTNI launched a paid Summer Camp Community Health Internship for summer 2026, open to students in nursing, pre-nursing, public health, social work, psychology and related health fields. Interns work alongside camp nurses at residential camps in Minnesota and Massachusetts in a non-clinical role supporting daily health checks, documentation, camper wellness, parent communication and comfort care. The position includes housing and meals, with academic credit available.

Community Presence

- GTNI affiliate faculty were well represented at the **Mankato Area Diversity Council's Hindsight 2025 20-Year Anniversary Celebration in November**, with Marilyn Swan, Angela Christian, Sabrina Ehmke and Sonika Masih attending at the Institute's sponsor table.

GTNI served as a sponsor for **The Greater Mankato Ubuntu Festival**, a multi-day event uniting people of all ages in celebration of culture and community through music, drum circles and storytelling.

GTNI coordinator Lynn Kuechle and Director Hans-Peter de Ruiter were joined by affiliate faculty Tai Sims, Rachel Schickling, Maya Bastian, Marilyn Swan, Sabrina Ehmke and Alison Gulden at the **53rd Annual Diversity Dinner hosted by Minnesota State Mankato's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**, an event that, as the Institute noted, reflects a core truth: diversity, equity and inclusion is societal nursing.

First Affiliated Community Member

This year GTNI welcomed its first affiliated community member, **Chidinma Ukeoma**, a licensed nurse and certified progressive care nurse pursuing her BSN at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Ukeoma began her nursing career in Nigeria with a focus on cardiothoracic nursing, currently works at Mayo Clinic and represented MSU in Osaka, Japan as part of the 2025 Summer International Student Exchange Program. She also serves on the Mu Lambda Board.

Affiliate Faculty

Affiliate faculty of the Glen Taylor Nursing Institute contribute to advancing research, education and clinical initiatives aligned with family and societal nursing. These individuals demonstrate an ongoing commitment to GTNI's strategic goals through scholarship, teaching and practice. This year marked the largest expansion of affiliate faculty in the Institute's history, with 27 new members joining from a wide array of disciplines and locations around the world.

Recognition and Awards

- Affiliate faculty member Stacey Van Gelderen received the 2026 MERLOT Classic Award in Health Sciences for the Van Gelderen Family Nursing Rubric.
- Affiliate faculty members were recognized at **MSU's 2025–2026 Teaching Awards ceremony**:
 - Stacey Van Gelderen: Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award
 - Sabrina Ehmke: Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award
 - Sharonne Dolechek: Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching.
- Jason Kaufman, Leslie Darmofal and Nancyruth Leibold were recognized at the annual Authors Reception on April 7, 2026, honoring their contributions to scholarship in family and societal nursing.

Research and Publications

Affiliate faculty Sarah Ogilvie, Tammy Neiman, Rachel Schickling and Maya Bastian presented posters at the [Midwest Nursing Research Society conference](#), sharing work related to the foster care system, mentorship in nursing, autoethnography and caregiving and clinical reasoning.

Affiliate faculty Sandra Richardson and Anna Richardson published a new article introducing a Cultural Safety model to guide emergency responses to discrimination, biases and inequities in healthcare — and used their platform to challenge colleagues globally to reflect on their practice and their role as global citizens.

Affiliate faculty member **Aaron Hoy** offered a community-facing online course through MSU Workforce Professional Education exploring how personal stories illuminate larger social worlds.

Community Presence

Affiliate community member Chidinma Ukeoma spoke at a Global Education event at Minnesota State University, Mankato, representing the values and reach of the Institute in the broader campus and global community.

2025–2026 Affiliate Faculty

H. Sheen Chiou, Sandra Kathryn Richardson, Anna Richardson, Itoko Tobita, Tammy Neiman, Chidinma Ukeoma, Rhonda Cornell, Leslie Darmofal, Ellen Johnson, Ellen Vorbeck, Louisa Krueger, Julia Gloesmann, Maya Bastian, Sonika Masih, Tai Sims, Kristi Treinen, Alli Faricy, Ahtisham Younas, Kelly Krumwiede, Aaron Hoy, David Clisbee, Dennis Demedts, Melanie Breznik, Eric Meittunen, Teresa Gutiérrez-Alemán, Natalie McAndrew, Kelly Lewer

Advisory Board

The Glen Taylor Nursing Institute's Advisory Board brings together national and international leaders in nursing research, education and practice. These members provide strategic insight and academic partnership as the Institute advances its mission in family and societal nursing.

Advisory Board Members (2025–2026)

Sandra Eggenberger PhD, RN Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Founding Director of the Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Society Minnesota State University, Mankato

Catherine (Kit) Chesla, RN, PhD, FAAN Professor and Shobe Endowed Chair for Ethics and Spirituality, Department of Family Health Care Nursing University of California, San Francisco

Kathleen A. Knafl, PhD, FAAN School of Nursing University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Petra Brysiewicz PhD, MN, FAAN, fANSA, ASSAf Professor, School of Nursing and Public Health University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Rahel Naef Assistant Professor for Implementation Science in Nursing Science University of Zurich, Switzerland

Wendy Looman, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs University of Minnesota

Sonja J. Meiers, PhD, RN, AGCNS-BC, FAAN Jane W. and James E. Moore Nursing Research Professor, College of Nursing and Health Sciences University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Kristen Abbott-Anderson, PhD, RN Dean and Professor, College of Nursing and Health Sciences University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Kelly Krumwiede, PhD, RN Professor Minnesota State University, Mankato

Norma Krumwiede, EdD, RN Professor Minnesota State University, Mankato

Stacey Van Gelderen, DNP, MS, RNC-MNN, PHN Professor Minnesota State University, Mankato

Marilyn Swan, PhD, RN Department Chair and Professor Minnesota State University, Mankato

Becky Taylor Fellows

The Becky Taylor Fellowship supports DNP students in pursuing research that advances family and societal nursing. This year's fellows made their mark not only through their research but through advocacy, recognition and real-world impact.

Current Becky Taylor Fellow Projects

AM Roberts

AM Roberts is improving psychosocial care for people with ALS by implementing validated screening tool in an interdisciplinary clinic.

Abigail O'Leary

Abigail O'Leary is conducting a statewide needs assessment to strengthen NP representation in health policy and advocacy.

Past Fellow Accomplishments

Becky Taylor Fellow **Adrianna Wohlhuter** traveled to Capitol Hill as part of a student delegation to advocate for nursing, joining MSU School of Nursing students at the 2026 Student Policy Summit before spending a day meeting with legislators. Her participation reflects the Institute's belief that nursing leadership extends well beyond the clinical setting.

Fellow **Lauren Lehmkuhl** was featured in Today magazine for her leadership at Riverland Community Health in St. Paul, where her MSU doctorate has fueled her work expanding her scope and impact from

individual to community. In her own words:

"I came to Minnesota State University, Mankato and the Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Society after years at the ICU bedside, looking to grow in my scope and impact — from individual to society."

Fellow **Sharonne Dolechek** was recognized with the Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching Award at MSU's 2025–2026 Teaching Awards ceremony, honored for her impact on students' lives through excellence in teaching.

Looking Ahead: What's on the Horizon for GTNI

The 2026–2027 academic year is already taking shape.

In December 2026, GTNI will serve as a distinguished co-host of the **international conference Transforming Global Health: Shaping the Future for Vulnerable Populations**, organized by the Srisavarindhira Thai Red Cross Institute of Nursing and held at the Arnoma Grand Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. The conference will bring together global voices around themes of health equity, One Health, community engagement and nursing innovation for vulnerable populations.

Upcoming Conferences and Affiliations

In the next fiscal year the Institute will attend national and international conferences and continue to partner with organizations around the world that hold a shared vision for the future of family nursing.

IFNA, [18th International Family Nursing Conference \(IFNC18\) | International Family Nursing Association](#)

SSSP [The Society for the Study of Social Problems | 2026 Annual Meeting Program Theme](#)

MNRS [Future Meetings | Midwest Nursing Research Society](#)

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