
Summer 2024

Gifts at Work

Jill B. King 98
Linfield University

Lauren J. Graham 07
Linfield University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine

Recommended Citation

King, Jill B. 98 and Graham, Lauren J. 07 (2024) "Gifts at Work," *Linfield Magazine*: Vol. 19: No. 2, Article 30.

Available at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol19/iss2/30

This article is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.

Delivering a hands-on education

Birthing manikin provides new clinical simulations for nursing students

By Jill B. King '98

“Hi Noelle, I’m Billie, I am your nurse,” the student said. “How are you feeling today?”

A voice projecting from Noelle complains of a headache and feeling fatigued.

“I’m going to check your vital signs and give you a head-to-toe assessment,” Billie Melchor '24 explained as she placed one hand on the manikin’s arm in a gesture of comfort.

Melchor is among the first Bachelor of Science in Nursing students participating in a new simulation in the Family Birthing Center in the Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing’s Experiential Learning Center. Another student in the back of the room tends to a newborn baby manikin crying faintly on a pediatric table.

Unlike the previous simulations that day, this one involves a pregnant manikin and her newborn baby. Other than knowing it involves a labor and delivery manikin, students entering the room have no idea what scenario they will be presented with.

In March 2023, the E. L. Wiegand Foundation awarded Linfield a grant of which approximately \$73,000 supported the School of Nursing’s purchase of the fully-functioning, high-tech maternity labor and delivery mother and infant manikins, named Noelle and Newborn Tory.

The E. L. Wiegand Foundation makes grants to qualified charitable organizations for programs and projects having significant impact in areas including education and medical research. In total, the grant was \$122,290, with the remainder awarded to the Department of Health, Human Performance and Athletics to supply high-tech sensory equipment for the Master of Science in sports science and analytics program.

Noelle and Newborn Tory were used in limited-simulation scenarios during the summer, and then students in all three of Linfield’s on-campus nursing programs began using their full features in early November.

“Noelle has so many features that add realism to simulation and have made a variety of clinical scenarios possible for learning. Noelle has high-tech features that can simulate pupil dilation, seizure activity, active bleeding and fundus firmness, to name a few.”

—Assistant Professor Emily Rios

“Noelle has so many features that add realism to simulation and have made a variety of clinical scenarios possible for learning. Noelle has high-tech features that can simulate pupil dilation, seizure activity, active bleeding and fundus firmness, to name a few,” said Assistant Professor Emily Rios, who uses the high-fidelity manikins in her courses with third-semester students. “Students have been able to perform important assessments and intervene in obstetric crises in a safe learning space.”

Noelle is a dark skin tone labor and delivery patient simulator, while Newborn Tory is a newborn full-term neonatal simulator. Noelle’s features include several different bellies, a spot on her spine for an epidural, a placenta and three non-mechanical baby manikins. She can say limited phrases



SIMULATED LABOR, REAL-WORLD CARE: Nursing student Ty Norlin '24 examines Noelle, Linfield's pregnant and labor-capable manikin, in the Experiential Learning Center on the Portland campus.

like, "Ouch! That hurts," while Linfield's simulation operation specialists can voice additional phrases through a built-in speaker. She can have a breech birth, require a c-section, have a seizure and postpartum hemorrhage or go into cardiac or respiratory arrest.

Students can practice chest compressions, resuscitation and intubation on Newborn Tory. He stores data such as vital signs and CPR measurements, which are reviewed with the students during their debrief. The three non-mechanical babies are used for scenarios that involve complications or delivering twins.

"This simulation was more intense than the others. I felt nervous at first. There's a lot to pay attention to," Melchor said following the half-day exercise. "Our team prepped really well, though. We used good communication and delegated tasks in order to tend to both patients."

Noelle and Newborn Tory give nursing students experience in a wide variety of childbirth situations. This includes:

- Amniotic fluid embolism
- Assisted deliveries using forceps
- Breech vaginal delivery
- C-section delivery
- Different birthing positions
- Epidural procedures
- Episiotomy repair
- Neonatal resuscitation
- Normal vaginal delivery
- Placental abruption
- Postpartum hemorrhage
- Preeclampsia
- Prolapsed cord
- Shoulder dystocia

Representing her community

Violet (Hall) Larry '87 gives back to her profession and future nurses

By Laura J. Graham '07

Over a 35-year career in nursing, Violet (Hall) Larry '87 found the general lack of diversity in the profession to be problematic. There was one other Black student in her nursing classes, a pattern of scarcity she continued to find across decades in public health. Now retired, she is determined to help the next generation improve their cultural awareness by sharing her expertise with Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing students.

Last fall, Violet took part in an interactive lecture at the Linfield University Portland Campus titled, "Culturally Responsive Family Health." It wasn't her first time back at Linfield, and she hopes it won't be the last.

"The reason I want to give back is to allow nursing students of color the chance to see a successful Black nurse," she said. "I'm hoping my presence will help motivate them to keep pushing through no matter what obstacles they might face."

Lunch-and-learn events are a way for Violet to share her decades of experience with those about to enter the field.

These events highlight two of her interests – community health and racial representation in health care – which she developed as a Linfield student.

"I would go from clinical placement to placement looking for other African American nurses. I wanted to learn from them and their experiences, but I found that I never saw these nurses," she said. "When I would work with Black patients, I would see the connection and appreciation in their faces when they found out I was helping them."

Violet's career took her to the Veterans Health Administration and Oregon Health & Science University before landing at the Multnomah County Health Department. It was there she combined her passions, eventually serving as the manager of the county's Healthy Birth Initiative. This comprehensive program addresses the needs of pregnant Black and African American women by providing access to health services, prenatal care and postnatal support to improve birth outcomes and reduce infant mortality rates that disproportionately affect these populations.

For her work and advocacy in child health care, Violet has twice been honored by the March of Dimes at its annual "Heroes in Action" nurse of the year event.

While she never specifically sought out leadership roles during her career, she was a natural leader thanks, in part, to the confidence she gained during nursing school.

"At Linfield, I had excelled in leadership courses and rotations. It came very naturally to me," she said. "Leadership roles never felt like work. I really felt prepared to take on leadership positions in my career."

Now, by sharing her talents and experience with Linfield's nursing students, she is helping inspire the next generation of nursing leaders.

"I feel proud to support the School of Nursing because I know firsthand that Linfield puts out quality professionals. Linfield faculty invest in making sure students understand what you are learning as a nurse," she said. "It is a school that continues to evolve and make improvements. That is important in health care."

