



# *Pinning Ceremony*

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Est. 1974

# Welcome to Andrews University School of Nursing

Hey everyone,

Today we gather to mark an important milestone. The pinning ceremony recognizes the dedication, discipline, and perseverance that brought you to this day. Completing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing requires resilience, commitment, and a deep willingness to care for others.

Throughout your journey you faced demanding schedules, early clinical mornings, long hours of study, and moments that tested your confidence. Step by step, these experiences shaped the knowledge, judgment, and compassion that define the nursing profession.

This day also belongs to the families and friends who supported you along the way. Their encouragement, patience, and sacrifices made it possible for many of you to continue through the challenges of nursing school. They celebrated your successes, stood beside you through difficult moments, and helped you reach this milestone.

To the families and loved ones gathered here today, thank you for believing in these graduates and supporting them throughout this journey.

We are proud of your accomplishments and confident in the care you will provide.

With gratitude,



# WHO *we* ARE

## Our Faculty Team



**Sara Kim, DNP, FNP, JD**  
Chair, School of Nursing  
Clinical Associate Professor



**Khonnah Weithers MSN, RN,  
FNP-BC, CCRN**  
Assistant Professor of Nursing



**Alison Duis, MSN**  
Assistant Professor of Nursing  
RN-to-BSN Program Director



**Grace Chi PhD, RN**  
Professor of Nursing  
Director of Clinical Education



**Carol Rossman DNP, PNP-C**  
Professor of Nursing  
DNP Director



**Kathleen Ryba, MSN**  
Assistant Professor of Nursing  
Simulation Director

# OUR HISTORY

The Andrews University School of Nursing has a rich history rooted in a commitment to excellence, service, and the preparation of compassionate healthcare professionals. Its origins date back to the 1948–1949 academic year, when nursing education was first offered within the Department of Biology. At that time, students completed foundational coursework on campus before finishing their clinical training at affiliated hospital programs, reflecting the apprenticeship model common in nursing education of that era.

In 1953, the program reached an important milestone by becoming an independent Department of Nursing under the leadership of dedicated faculty. During these early years, strong partnerships were formed with Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital, allowing students to pursue a structured pathway that combined academic study with hands-on clinical experience.

This collaboration led to the development of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, integrating liberal arts education with professional nursing preparation and reflecting the university's holistic philosophy.

As healthcare and educational standards evolved, the department adapted to meet national expectations. In the 1960s, the curriculum expanded to emphasize scientific knowledge, critical thinking, and whole-person care. By 1969, the program received accreditation from the National League for Nursing (NLN), followed by full accreditation in 1974. These milestones affirmed the quality and rigor of the program and strengthened its reputation for excellence while ensuring graduates were well-prepared for professional practice.



Growth continued in the decades that followed. In 1981, Andrews University launched its graduate nursing program, creating pathways for registered nurses to advance their education and leadership capacity. Over time, specialized tracks and certifications were added, responding to the increasing complexity of healthcare delivery. The program also evolved alongside national accreditation transitions, maintaining continuous recognition under successor organizations and demonstrating its commitment to accountability and improvement.

In 2012, the university established the School of Health Professions, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration across healthcare fields. The nursing program further expanded with the introduction of doctoral-level education, including the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), preparing nurses for advanced clinical practice, systems leadership, and evidence-based care. Technological advancements—including simulation laboratories, electronic health record training, and innovative teaching

methods—have enhanced student learning and clinical readiness.

Beyond academics, the School of Nursing has remained deeply committed to service and outreach. Students and faculty actively participate in local health initiatives, community partnerships, and global mission experiences, promoting health and wellness in diverse and underserved populations. These opportunities cultivate cultural competence, adaptability, and a spirit of service that extends far beyond the classroom.

The nursing pinning ceremony, rooted in the historic capping tradition, symbolizes the transition from student to professional nurse. It reflects a commitment to compassionate care, ethical practice, and lifelong service. As we celebrate this legacy, we honor those who have shaped the program and proudly recognize our graduates as they carry forward this enduring tradition of excellence in nursing.

# WHAT WE BELIEVE

## VISION

To prepare professional nurses to reflect Christian spirituality, caring attitudes, clinical excellence and cultural competence for service and practice in concert with the four main initiatives from the Institute of Medicine and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Report on the Future of Nursing. (October 5, 2010)

- Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
- Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
- Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other healthcare professionals, in redesigning healthcare in the United States.
- Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and information infrastructure.

## MISSION

The Andrews University School of Nursing, a program based on Seventh-day Adventist precepts and Restoration to the Image of God, provides transformational nursing education which equips students to function as professional nurses in direct care, advanced practice, research and education. Through the following activities, the School of Nursing encourages students to Seek Knowledge, Affirm Faith and provide Changes that impact the World of healthcare.



# PROGRAM

**Prelude & Processional**

**Invocation**

**Welcome**

**Deans Remarks**

**Special Music**

**Scripture Reading**

**Introduction of Speaker**

**Address**

**Special Music**

**Presentation of Pins & Awards**

**Health Professional Covenant**

**Class Video**

**Benediction**

**Recessional**

**Musicians**

**Kathleen Ryba** MSN

**Sara Kim** DNP, FNP, JD

**Emmanuel Rudatsikira** DrPH, MPH, MD

**Cielo Sandoval** BSN Class of 2026

**Cindel Pluiose** DNP Class of 2025

**Naomi Sakanoue DeFranca** BSN Class of 2026

**Natasha Richards** MDiv, BSN

**Joshua Curameng** BSN Class of 2026

**Khonnah Weithers** MSN, RN, FNP-BC, CCRN

**Grace Chi** PhD, MSN, RN

**Alison Duis** MSN

**Musicians**

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms”— **1 Peter 4:10**

# BSN GRADUATES

CLASS OF 2026

Aaron Almocera **ΣΘΤ**

Megan Asiimirwe

Joshua Cordero Curameng

Niang San Dim

Pamela Fisher

Antonia Hess **ΣΘΤ**

Andrea Gabriela Huaytalla Diaz **ΣΘΤ**

Eunice Heewon Kim **ΣΘΤ**

Gayhun Kim

Mugabe Menani

Musonda Mwila **ΣΘΤ**

Kondwani 'Kondy' Nyirenda

Emma Michelle Ringstaff

Victoria Naomi Sakanoue-Defranca **ΣΘΤ**

Zoe Amelia Samuel-Mcgregor

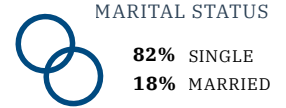
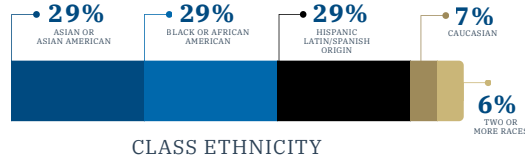
Cielo Mirieli Sandoval Castro **ΣΘΤ**

Maria Santos-Reyes

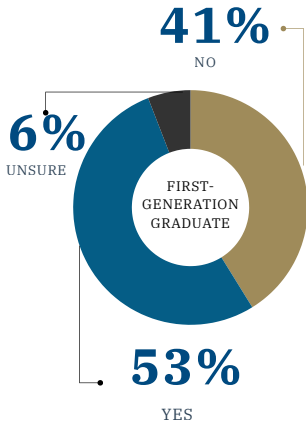
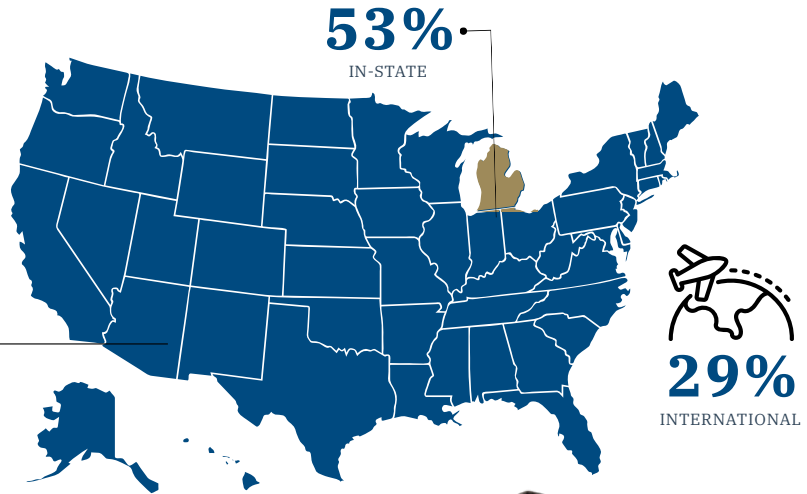
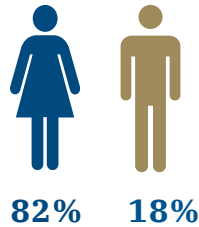


**ΣΘΤ** Sigman Theta Tau Internatonal Honor Society of Nursing

# CLASS OF 2026



CLASS GENDER



PRIMARY LANGUAGE



- 35%** ENGLISH
- 29%** SPANISH
- 12%** KOREAN
- 24%** OTHERS



Dear Graduating Class,

On behalf of the Andrews University Student Nurse Association, I want to congratulate the graduating class as we reach this huge milestone together. Completing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing is something we should all be incredibly proud of because if nursing school has taught us anything, it is that getting here was definitely not easy.

Over the past few years, we shared moments only nursing students truly understand: standing outside a patient's room doing a last minute review, practicing skills until we got them right, and celebrating small victories that felt huge. Somewhere between the nerves of skills check-offs and the excitement of clinical days, we started realizing we were becoming nurses.

We survived clinical mornings, racing hearts during check-offs, and the constant worry over whether we had everything we needed. Along the way, we learned to think like nurses, advocate for patients, and support one another through every challenge.

We also built friendships and memories that will last beyond nursing school. From practicing skills together to encouraging each other before exams, these shared experiences shaped us.

Nursing school pushed us, challenged us, and tested our patience but it also prepared us for the meaningful work ahead. I am proud to be graduating alongside all of you and excited to see the incredible nurses this class will become.

We made it!

*Emma Ringstaff*



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# AWARDS

The following awards are presented to honor students who exemplify excellence across the core values of nursing—academic achievement, leadership, compassionate service, clinical competence, and faith-centered care. Each award reflects the School of Nursing’s commitment to developing professionals who not only demonstrate strong knowledge and skill, but also embody integrity, purpose, and a dedication to holistic healing. These recognitions celebrate students who go beyond expectations, inspiring others through their actions, character, and vision for the profession.

In partnership with AdventHealth and Kettering Health, these awards also highlight the importance of mission-driven practice and the vital role nurses play in extending compassionate, patient-centered care in diverse healthcare settings. Together, we recognize and celebrate those who represent the highest standards of nursing and who are prepared to make a meaningful impact in their communities and beyond.

## **Hagerman Award**

Recognizes excellence in academics and is awarded to the student with the highest GPA.

## **Taylor Award**

Recognizes excellence in leadership and is granted to a student who demonstrates Christian service outside of what is required in class. Additionally, this student motivates fellow students, has organization skills, and has a professional vision of nursing.

## **Nightingale Award**

Recognizes a student who has mastered clinical skills expected at the level of education received. This student seeks learning opportunities for self and others, applies knowledge in clinical settings, and meets the spiritual needs of clients

## **Restoration Award**

Recognizes a student who consistently portrays or applies restoration to the image of God.

### **Image Award**

Recognizes a student who portrays a positive image of nursing.

### **CHHS Outstanding Student Award**

Recognizes a student who demonstrates excellence in service, leadership, and academics with at least a 3.5 GPA.

### **AdventHealth Mission Excellence Award**

Recognizes a nursing student who exemplifies strong academic standing, embodies the mission of AdventHealth, extends the healing ministry of Christ, and has accepted a position within the organization upon graduation.

### **Kettering Health Network “Called to Care” Award**

Recognizes a nursing student who exemplifies the heart of nursing through compassionate, holistic care, unwavering integrity, faith-based purpose, strong communication, and a commitment to excellence in every patient interaction.



# CINDEL PLUVIOSE

**Research topic:** Hypertension Prevention Program And Its Effects On Blood Pressure Levels Amongst Young Adults In A Christian Community In Southwest Michigan

**Biography:**

A Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)-prepared clinician with over 15 years of Medical-Surgical nursing experience, Cindel has served diverse patient populations across multiple healthcare settings, including nationwide travel assignments during the COVID-19 crisis. These experiences refined her clinical judgment, strengthened resilience, and deepened her commitment to compassionate, patient-centered care.

Grounded in faith, she integrates spiritual principles into practice, advancing care that attends to mind, body, and spirit. Her work extends beyond the clinical setting into ministry, where she supports pastoral leadership, outreach, and community development.

Cindel's journey reflects discipline and perseverance, shaped by early influence, professional formation, and a sustained support system of family, mentors, and colleagues. She recognizes these contributions with gratitude.

Most importantly, Cindel's attributes this achievement to God's guidance, acknowledging His faithfulness through every challenge and season of growth.



# HEALTH PROFESSIONALS COVENANT

As a professional nurse, dedicated to enhancing the well-being of individuals and communities, I am committed to achieving the the highest level of professional competence to fulfilling my responsibilities with compassion, and to helping patients make their own informed Choices about Healthcare.

Because I recognize that effective health promotion, disease prevention, and curative and long-term care are products of combined efforts of health professional teams. I pledge collaboration with this similarly committed colleagues to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual healthcare needs of individuals and communities.

Further, I will work within my profession to promote the patients' and public's interests, above self-interests of my profession.





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