

Background

- The US is facing a critical shortage of Child-Health Nursing (CHN) faculty .
- The shortage of CHN faculty with leadership abilities has, subsequently, resulted in less qualified faculty teaching child-health nursing, and fewer skilled nurse researchers able to address child health issues.
- In the past decade there has been an increasing rates of child-onset adult conditions and co-morbidities and decreasing numbers of child-health nursing providers.

Purpose

To improve the health status of children and families, particularly those in the southeastern region of the US, by building capacity and leadership in CHN faculty.

Goals

- **Graduate Education:** Increase the number of PhD CHN faculty who are prepared to assume CHN education leadership roles .
- **Research:** Increase the number of PhD CHN faculty who are prepared to conduct community-based, interdisciplinary research related to children and families that addresses bio-behavioral, bio-psychological, environmental, developmental and/or economic issues and who will train and mentor future CHN researchers.
- **Advocacy:** Increase the number of PhD CHN faculty who are prepared to advocate for the health and well-being of children and families and who will train and mentor future CHN leaders.
- **Post Graduate Education:** Provide graduate CHN training in leadership and research roles to medium- and short-term trainees
- **Continuing Education and Technical Assistance:** Annually provide technical assistance/consultation, continuing education and collaboration to child health agencies at national, regional and local levels.



Current LECHN Long-Term Fellows



Betsy Gulledge

“The camaraderie and collaboration of other LECHN fellows has added to the richness of my educational experience at UAB. I feel as if my knowledge base has dramatically increased, as well as the ability to incorporate concepts learned within the classroom into the research environment. “

- Research Interests :Childhood obesity, physical inactivity and self-concept



Michele Montgomery

“I plan to assume a faculty position in child health nursing upon graduation and plan to build a program of research in this area. I felt this fellowship would build my knowledge base and research skills in the area of children’s health. “

- Research Interests : Childhood cancer survivorship, biobehavioral aspects and quality of life.



Thy Lam

“I have a strong desire to build my knowledge base and educate student nurses about current issues affecting children’s health. I encourage students who are interested in expanding educational and professional development in CHN to seek out the LECHN traineeship program. “

- Research Interests : Childhood obesity, depressive symptoms and stress



Jeannie Rodriguez

“The LECHN program has given me the opportunity to network with others with similar interests in nursing and other disciplines. LECHN has offered opportunities above and beyond the typical PhD program offered at UAB. “

- Research Interests : Internationally adopted children, growth and iron deficiency



Cynthia Irwin Joiner

“My career goal is to have a CHN nursing faculty position and continue my research. The LECHN program offers a wonderful opportunity to network with others who share a passion for pediatrics.”

- Research Interests : Preschool childhood obesity and environmental factors

Leadership Education in Child-Health Nursing (LECHN)

Long-term fellows – PhD (Nursing) students

Admission requirements include admission to the School of Nursing PhD program, exhibits leadership potential

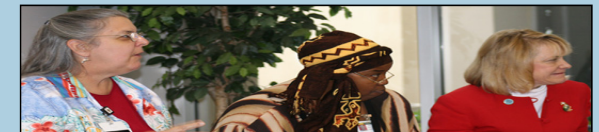
The curriculum includes:

- Didactic Learning (on campus & online) – existing PHD program (core, research/statistics, and cognate courses) augmented with LECHN courses such as
 - » Child Health Theories & Concepts
 - » Emerging Issues in Child Health Nursing
 - » Nurse Educator courses
- Biobehavioral courses
- School of Public health courses
- LECHN activities
 - » Experiential activities
 - » LECHN seminars
 - » Networking with campus MCH activities



Medium and short-term fellows

- Medium-term: Doctoral prepared nursing faculty who wish to retool and/or update as CHN faculty (1-2 fellows/year)
 - LECHN courses
 - Nurse education course
 - LECHN seminars – onsite or online
- Short-term: Annual CE opportunities in CHN for nurses and other health providers (50/year)



LECHN Project Faculty: Drs. Anne Turner-Henson, Glenda Smith and Marti Rice