

### ***Message from the Dean...***

Welcome to Valparaiso University College of Nursing and Health Professions! It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to our **Physician Assistant Program**, and to the University.

Included in this folder are various items of information that will provide specifics related to this degree, and if you have any questions please contact Ms. Bianca Villarruel at (219) 464-5198, or [bianca.villarruel@valpo.edu](mailto:bianca.villarruel@valpo.edu). She will be delighted to provide additional information, clarifications, and resources.

We have a rich legacy of educating and training health care providers for 50 years, in order to contribute to the health and wellness of society. Since 1968, when we began with the BSN degree, we have been an important part of the life and mission of Valparaiso University. In 2013 we became the College of Nursing and Health Professions, and in the fall of 2015 the five-year BS/MS in Physician Assistant Program was added to the College's educational offerings.

As is our history, the Physician Assistant program is taught with rigorous academic and professional standards, which helps us to maintain the wide respect we have been afforded from peer institutions and health care facilities in surrounding areas.

Our Physician Assistant program instills in students the concept of people as holistic beings with unique physical, social, cultural, and spiritual facets. In addition, the faculty who teach in this program are of high quality, clinically experienced, passionate about the physician assistant role, and excited about being a part of preparing the next generation of physician assistants. They teach using cutting edge practice, research, theory, educational techniques, technology, and more, on a foundation of knowledge from the humanities, physical, and social sciences.

Your interest in being a Physician Assistant is exciting, and programs like our five-year curriculum continue to create innovative ways to meet community needs, while enriching the education of the students and advancing the mission of Valparaiso University.

There is a definite shortage of primary care physicians and other specialty area health care providers, and because of your choice of the physician assistant degree, you will be helping to address this shortage and great need in society. As our country looks to re-shape the health care agenda for the United States, more opportunities for expanding the role and responsibilities as relates to the physician assistant, will occur.

Thank you for your interest in our physician assistant program here at the Valparaiso University College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Sincerely,



Karen Allen, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Dean and Professor of Nursing  
College of Nursing and Health Professions