

**TTU Whitson-Hester School of Nursing**  
**FACULTY AREAS OF EXPERTISE BY DEPARTMENT**

NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION	RESEARCH INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE
<b>Hanna, Kimberly</b> Professor and Dean	<a href="mailto:khanna@tntech.edu">khanna@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-3203	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music &amp; Memory: Use of personalized music for Alzheimer’s and dementia patients to provide evidence-based practice to support the improvement of physical, cognitive, and emotional functioning in these patients.</li> <li>• Peer coaching, peer collaborative testing, peer training using cognitive rehearsal, and peer interviewing</li> <li>• Additional interests: Accessibility to health care in rural areas; Funding for nursing students’ undergraduate and graduate education. Procuring funding for new simulation equipment for WHSON’s Center of Clinical Simulation at TTU.</li> </ul>
<b>Bowman, Dolores</b> Instructor	<a href="mailto:dbowman@tntech.edu">dbowman@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-6840	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not available</li> </ul>
<b>Browning, Stacey</b> Assistant Professor	<a href="mailto:sbrowning@tntech.edu">sbrowning@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-6809	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onboarding, retention, an inclusivity of diverse nursing students and faculty.</li> <li>• Academic nursing education</li> <li>• Professional and interdisciplinary collaboration and civility: Creating a culture of team</li> <li>• Student nurse and staff nurse retention: Effective leadership</li> <li>• Therapeutic music listening r/t holistic care provision in diverse patient populations</li> </ul>
<b>Butler, Keisha</b> Lecturer	<a href="mailto:kabutler@tntech.edu">kabutler@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-6831	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not available</li> </ul>
<b>Cathey, Heather</b> Lecturer	<a href="mailto:hcathey@tntech.edu">hcathey@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-6815	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not available</li> </ul>

<p><b>Donadio, A.J.</b> Assistant Professor</p>	<p><a href="mailto:adonadio@tnitech.edu">adonadio@tnitech.edu</a> (931) 372-6812</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practices in nursing education, focusing on the online environment.</li> <li>• <b>Current Research:</b> Evidence of potential for critical thinking enriched course: Creative Inquiry activities, student learning outcomes, and assessment.</li> <li>• Changing Nursing Students' Perceptions of the Courtroom Through Mock Depositions</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fornehed, Mary Lou C.</b> Assistant Professor</p>	<p><a href="mailto:mcfornehed@tnitech.edu">mcfornehed@tnitech.edu</a> (931) 607-2907</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Appalachian family decision-making at end-of-life</li> <li>• Culture care theory and ethnonursing method</li> <li>• <b>Current Research:</b> Pediatric hospice care in rural Appalachia</li> <li>• Hospice and palliative care in the adult and pediatric population</li> </ul>
<p><b>Geist, Melissa</b> Professor</p>	<p><a href="mailto:mgeist@tnitech.edu">mgeist@tnitech.edu</a> (931) 372-6305</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccine Hesitancy and COVID-19 education to prevent the spread of Misinformation.</li> <li>• Interdisciplinary and interprofessional communication and teamwork</li> <li>• Design thinking applied to nursing and healthcare</li> <li>• Using interdisciplinary environments to increase problem-solving and clinical judgment skills</li> <li>• Culturally sensitive and sustainable study abroad experiences</li> </ul>

<p><b>Guimaraes, Sarah</b> Lecturer</p>	<p><a href="mailto:sguimaraes@tntech.edu">sguimaraes@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-3279</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Medical-surgical nursing</li> <li>● Skilled nursing facilities/Long-term care</li> <li>● Nursing education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Factors that influence students' decisions to engage in academic misconduct</li> <li>○ Moral disengagement</li> <li>○ Mentorship of new nursing faculty</li> <li>○ Test-item writing and test-taking</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Patient education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improvement of patient outcomes</li> <li>○ Empowerment in health-care decisions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Hall, Rachel M.</b> Associate Professor</p>	<p><a href="mailto:rmhall@tntech.edu">rmhall@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-6814</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nursing education</li> <li>● Infertility issues</li> <li>● Women's health</li> <li>● End of life care</li> <li>● Population health</li> <li>● Quantitative research</li> </ul>
<p><b>Harvey, Lynette</b> Assistant Professor</p>	<p><a href="mailto:lharvey@tntech.edu">lharvey@tntech.edu</a> (931)-372-6807</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Human-Animal Interaction (HAI): specifically in use of canines in promoting therapeutic outcomes of older adults; Exploration of therapy dogs with individuals with testing anxiety</li> <li>● <b>Current Research:</b> Walk-A-Hound, Lose a Pound, and Stay Fit for older adults. <i>This is a mixed method longitudinal study examining the effects of dog walking on older adults living in assisted living communities.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Hellman, Ann</b> Associate Professor</p>	<p><a href="mailto:AHellman@tntech.edu">AHellman@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-6813 <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ann_Hellman">https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ann_Hellman</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sexual assault, sexual violence, spirituality, nursing education, healthcare of communities, and disaster nursing especially as it pertains to nursing education.</li> <li>● Versed in qualitative research. I have expertise in obstetrical nursing (x 16 years of acute care experience) and community health nursing.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Howard, Tammy</b> Assistant Professor</p>	<p><a href="mailto:thoward@tntech.edu">thoward@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-6804</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiples/breastfeeding multiples, Substance use during pregnancy/ NAS, Public observation assignment effect (beginning BSN nursing student), Nursing simulation, Concussions (youth basketball focus)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hurley, Shelia</b> Associate Professor</p>	<p><a href="mailto:SHurley@tntech.edu">SHurley@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-6805</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual assault, sexual violence, spirituality, nursing education, Alzheimer's</li> <li>• <b>Current Research:</b> PI- \$665,000 grant that provides a resident-centered statewide personalized art to improve the quality of care in nursing homes throughout Tennessee.</li> <li>• Co-PI \$500,000 grant to bring sexual assault services to the Tennessee Tech Campus by training nurses in SANE and developing a program to provide those services at the university.</li> <li>• The use of a mock deposition to increase student learning.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Jared, Barbara</b> Associate Professor/ Director</p>	<p><a href="mailto:bjared@tntech.edu">bjared@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-3460</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maternal health literacy, Health literacy, Women's health</li> <li>• Rural health</li> <li>• Prenatal care in rural populations Nursing education</li> </ul>
<p><b>Jones, Amanda</b> Instructor</p>		
<p><b>Langford, Matthew</b> Assistant Professor</p>	<p><a href="mailto:mlangford@tntech.edu">mlangford@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-3465</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychiatric/mental health</li> <li>• Community health</li> <li>• Increasing sleep in psychiatric inpatients through sleep hygiene education, exercise, and guided imagery.</li> <li>• The use of deep abdominal breathing increasing energy and concentration levels in nursing students.</li> <li>• The use of a psychiatric inquiry capstone assignment in increasing</li> </ul>

		mental health competency in nursing students.
<b>Lee, Emily</b> Associate Professor	<a href="mailto:Elee@tntech.edu">Elee@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-3708	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simulation and clinical training for FNP's</li> <li>• Women's health &amp; breastfeeding</li> <li>• Health promotion &amp; wellness</li> <li>• FNP certification success</li> </ul>
<b>LeFave, Mary</b> Instructor	<a href="mailto:mlefave@tntech.edu">mlefave@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-3228	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not available</li> </ul>
<b>Mabry, Jennifer</b> Associate Professor	<a href="mailto:jmabry@tntech.edu">jmabry@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-6801	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current interests: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prevention of chronic illness specifically cardiac and endocrine in Appalachian population</li> <li>2. Primary care/urgent care-20+ years experience as FNP</li> <li>3. Healthcare policy</li> </ol> </li> <li>• <b>Current Research:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Educational strategies in academic nursing (simulation, rubric development, nursing residency)</li> <li>2. Rural Appalachia and primary care access with an Academic practice partnership</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>Maharaj, Geeta</b> Assistant Professor	<a href="mailto:gmaharaj@tntech.edu">gmaharaj@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-3679	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not available</li> </ul>
<b>Piras, Susan E.</b> Associate Professor	<a href="mailto:spiras@tntech.edu">spiras@tntech.edu</a> (931) 372-6810	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical care nursing research: ICU Delirium interventions and Early mobility</li> <li>• Second degree nursing student attrition</li> <li>• Academic misconduct</li> </ul>

<p><b>Roberts, Toni</b> Lecturer</p>	<p><a href="mailto:tsroberts@tnitech.edu">tsroberts@tnitech.edu</a> (931) 372-6811</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Civility in nursing and nursing education, lateral violence:</i> e.g., role modeling professional behaviors, improving civility in the clinical area, teaching students to recognize and respond to incivility and create a culture of safety for patients and nurses.</li> <li>• <i>Nursing education – adult learning theory, simulation, evaluation methods:</i> e.g., deep learning, fair testing, active learning strategies, collaborative learning and testing, simulation evaluation.</li> <li>• <i>Nursing practice – staff retention:</i> e.g., nurse residency programs, transition to practice, professional development.</li> <li>• <i>Music intervention:</i> e.g., music to decrease agitation and promote quality of life in Alzheimer’s patients, music intervention to decrease stress and improve student performance, music intervention to improve mood and movement.</li> <li>• <i>Academic misconduct in nursing education:</i> e.g. exploration of influencing factors and development of deterrents.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stacie Rothfus</b> Assistant Professor</p>		

<p><b>Russell, Bedelia H.</b> Associate Professor</p>	<p><a href="mailto:bhrussell@tnitech.edu">bhrussell@tnitech.edu</a> (931) 372-3689 <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Bedelia_Russell">https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Bedelia_Russell</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nursing education</li> <li>• Pediatric population health</li> <li>• Boyer Model of Scholarship</li> <li>• Intellectual curiosity and metacognition</li> <li>• Motivational factors of teaching and learning</li> <li>• Qualitative, hermeneutics, and mixed-methods research</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sarfo, Robert</b> Assistant Professor</p>	<p><a href="mailto:rsarfo@tnitech.edu">rsarfo@tnitech.edu</a> (931) 372-6832</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health literacy among adult African-Americans with heart failure</li> <li>• Self-care behaviors in patients with heart failure (Left ventricular systolic dysfunction)</li> <li>• 30-day hospital readmissions in adult African-American heart failure patients</li> <li>• Effect of antipsychotic medications on mentally-ill patients with comorbid heart disease</li> <li>• Mediation and moderation analyses</li> </ul>
<p><b>Snow, Ashleigh</b> Lecturer</p>	<p><a href="mailto:asnow@tnitech.edu">asnow@tnitech.edu</a> (931) 372-3617</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's health, particularly breastfeeding and postpartum depression</li> </ul>