

THE ADVANCINGPRACTICE PAGES



The start
of
something
new

OVERVIEW

If you are reading this, you probably already know who we are. But allow us to reintroduce ourselves! **AdvancingPractice** is Erie Family Health Centers' one-year, HRSA-funded Fellowship for recently graduated Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP), Adult Nurse Practitioners (AGNP), Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (PNP) and Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM). **Our mission? Cultivate quality care and nursing leadership to improve the health of communities through development and mentorship of advanced practice registered nurses.**

If you are still reading this, THANK YOU! We appreciate your interest and support. For our supporters, we have decided to launch the **"AdvancingPractice Pages"**, a quarterly newsletter to provide brief updates and noteworthy events happening in the Fellowship. Be on the look out for these every three months and let us know what you think! We are so proud of all the work that has been done thus far and look forward to sharing our progress.

THE INAGURAL COHORT



By column, top to bottom: Erica McNealey, CNM, Maria Pirotte, FNP, Kelly Quaine, AGNP, WHNP, Laura Nozicka, CNM, WHNP, Ana Perez, FNP, Meredith Berlin, FNP, Allee McDaniel, PNP, Lucy Amaro, FNP

Though challenging, the COVID-19 pandemic did not stop us from starting the Fellowship on June 27, 2020 with eight Fellows (pictured above). The Fellows went through a very robust, six-week virtual orientation. Needless to say, they were anxious to get into clinic to start seeing patients. The orientation, however, was a major success and we hope it will serve as an example for other Erie Residency Programs.

Erie employees have welcomed the Fellows with open arms. Though these eight Fellows are fully licensed and credentialed, we were nervous that there would be a misconception to treat them as students. However this has not been the case. Our preceptors have been so excited to work with these young professionals. We have grown in the number of interested preceptors and in the number of Erie staff members who support what we are doing.

Four Erie sites serve as the Home Sites of our Fellows: Erie Helping Hands, Erie Foster Avenue, Erie West Town and Erie Division Street. These home sites are where our Fellows see their own patients with the support of a preceptor two days a week. The rest of their week is made up of one day of Mentored Clinic and one day of a Specialty Clinic. In both of these Clinic Settings, the Fellow is seeing patients off their preceptor's schedule.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, scheduling Specialty Clinics has been challenging. However we have been able to be creative and establish relevant Specialty Clinic rotations such as COVID-19 Results, where Fellows will call high-risk patients with their COVID-19 test results, reassess their symptoms and ensure they have everything they need to isolate at home. Another Specialty rotation that has opened up to the Fellows is Telehealth. Though Telehealth was a piece of our original curriculum, we could have never imagined the critical need for this service.

FELLOW CHECKLIST

- ✓ NEXPLANON AND IUD TRAINING
- ✓ RAMPED UP TO 40 MIN VISITS
- ✓ COMPLETED FIRST QUARTER EVALUATIONS
- ✓ QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UNDERWAY
- ✓ CNM'S INTRAPARTUM SHIFT BEGINS

"Everyday I see something **new**, I am constantly learning new things, I am honing in the skills I developed through my nursing career and through grad school. "

- Lucy Amaro, FNP Fellow

THE LAST PAGE

A word that comes to mind that describes the past few months is **NEW**. New Fellowship, new APRN's, new preceptors, new ways to care for patients, new newsletter...you get where we are going with this. Though new things and change can be scary, all members of AdvancingPractice (Fellows and faculty) have leaned into change and have run with it. This first quarter has been a huge success. It is apparent that the Fellows are grateful not only for the support in their first year of practice, but are pleased with the entire Erie organization. We are not stopping anytime soon and only wish to grow this program and our mission for years and years to come. Time to start recruiting for the next cohort!



THANKS FOR READING!

BEST REGARDS,

AdvancingPractice

Cultivating Quality Care and Nursing Leadership
to Improve the Health of Communities

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UIC NURSING

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