About the Densford Center

Health care is undergoing unprecedented change. Financial and demographic pressures combined with exciting scientific advances are driving system-wide transformation in policy, practice, administration and evidence-based care. What does this mean for the nation’s 3.5 million nurses? The changes bring opportunities for nurses to channel their experience, education, wisdom and patient-centered perspective to lead the way.

The Densford Center promotes the development of nursing leadership capacity through program offerings, coaching, consulting and organizational development services that enhance nurses’ knowledge, skills and abilities to navigate complexity and lead successfully in academic and health care organizations.

The Densford Center is a resource, catalyst, and incubator for creativity, innovation and quality improvement in health care. Programs and services of the center are organized to assist health care leaders in achieving the triple aim of improving the patient experience, improving the health of populations and reducing the per capita cost of health care. In addition the Densford Center supports nurse leaders in effectively implementing the Affordable Care Act while driving toward innovation in nursing education, practice and research.

Goals and objectives

Programs and services of the center are aligned with the following goals and objectives:

- Convene and connect communities of practice, learning and research to create a desired 21st century health care future.
- Educate, coach and build the competency and confidence of nurse leaders to understand themselves, to motivate teams and to transfer nursing wisdom to the next generation of leaders.
- Inspire innovation in nursing education, practice and research through the application of complexity science and design thinking principles that influence systems transformation, and supports creativity and quality improvements in health care.
“The power and force of nursing is achieved as each nurse acknowledges his or her needs, strengths and talents and uses them to master the complexity leadership skill set that is required to create a 21st Century health care system.”

Daniel J. Pesut, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN, ACC
Director, Katharine J. Densford International Center for Nursing Leadership, University of Minnesota School of Nursing

Offerings include

Conferences, Classes, Lectures and Workshops
Topics include leading and managing complexity, effective mentoring, futures thinking, management of knowledge complexity and technology, innovations in nursing practice, quality improvement, design thinking, strengths-based leadership development, creating and sustaining healthy work environments, driving innovation in health care, understanding the value and use of technology and informatics in health care and effective interprofessional collaboration.

The Florence Schorske Wald Lectureship on Palliative/Hospice Care
An annual lectureship, offered in partnership with the Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care, that serves as a focal point for bringing together leaders in palliative care from the academic and broader community to examine issues related to the field.

Consultation and Professional Coaching
Customized programs for individuals, groups and organizations that support leadership assessment and development of futures thinking, strategic scenario development, innovation and quality improvement, and research and scholarship that contribute to positive organizational transformation and sustainable healthy communities.
About our namesake

Katharine J. Densford, director of the University of Minnesota School of Nursing from 1930 to 1959, was an independent and visionary woman who changed the face of nursing in Minnesota and around the world. She held offices in almost every nursing organization of the time and, more importantly, she was an agent for social change. She believed those who aspire to a nursing career are dedicated to a purpose, and are imaginative, daring and possess initiative. She also believed nurses should make the very most of their abilities and talents.

Through her influence, the School of Nursing at the University of Minnesota redefined how nursing influence and leadership could benefit patients, nursing and health care. In 1997 the Katharine J. Densford International Center for Nursing Leadership was created to honor the legacy of this pioneering heroine and to support nurses in addressing today’s challenges with the wisdom and generative and transformational leadership mindset that characterized Katharine Densford.

Join the Densford Center nursing leadership community
Email: densford@umn.edu
Visit our online library of leadership resources at www.nursing.umn.edu/densford
Call: 612-625-1187

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