

Virtual Summer Academy 2020

Bio Sketches

In order of Presentation

Monday August 10, 2020: Planning for Reopening Schools

Westyn Branch-Elliman, MD, MMSc

Westyn is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a specialist in infectious diseases and infection prevention. She is formerly the Medical Director of Infection Control for the Eastern Colorado VA Healthcare System. She is a clinician investigator at the VA Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research with expertise in epidemiology and implementation science. Her research is focused on measuring the risks and benefits of different infection prevention strategies and on expanding infection control beyond traditional inpatient settings.

Robin Cogan MEd, RN, NCSN

Robin is a Nationally Certified School Nurse (NCSN), currently in her 20th year as a New Jersey school nurse in the Camden City School District. Robin is the Legislative Co-chair for the New Jersey State School Nurses Association (NJSSNA). Robin serves as faculty in the School Nurse Certificate Program at Rutgers University-Camden School of Nursing, where she teaches the next generation of school nurses. Robin writes a weekly blog called [The Relentless School Nurse](#). She also has a monthly column in American Nurse, the official journal of the [American Nurses Association \(ANA\)](#). Robin was recently quoted in the New York Times and interviewed on CNN. You can follow Robin on Twitter at [@RobinCogan](#).

Kate King DNP, M.S., RN, LSN

Kate is currently the Director of Health, Family and Community Services for Columbus City Schools, the largest school district in the state of Ohio with over 51,000 students and 110 School Nurses. She also serves as the NASN Director from Ohio. Her background includes specialty areas of community health and adolescent psychiatric nursing and school health legislation. Kate's doctoral work focused on her passion for Creating Voice in School Nurses through Increasing Self Efficacy.

Karen Rufo MS, RN, PPCNP-BC

Karen has been a nurse for 40 years and has been in school nursing for the last 32 years! Karen is the Director of School Health Services in Lexington Massachusetts; she still works weekends at Newton Wellesley Hospital as a Nursing Supervisor. She is a graduate of Northeastern University and Boston College. She is a loyal Red Sox fan, currently missing Fenway Park. If she is not working, you will find her playing golf!

Karen Schwind BSN, RN, NCSN

Karen has served as Director of Health Services Coordinator for the New Braunfels ISD in Texas since 2004. Previously she worked as an elementary school nurse for 13 years. Karen is a nationally certified school nurse and is President-elect for the Texas School Nurse Organization. Her professional mission is to serve as a health resource for nurses and colleagues by providing tools and evaluating research in educating them to best serve the health needs of their students.

Donna Gaffney DNSc, PMHCNS-BC, FANN

Donna Gaffney, advanced practice nurse-psychotherapist, author and educator, has long addressed trauma and loss in the lives of individuals, families and professionals. She has worked with schools and communities in the aftermath of local and national tragedies — 9/11, Sandy Hook, and Hurricane Katrina. Donna continues to collaborate with hospitals and communities throughout the Coronavirus pandemic. She created a webinar series for Rutgers University for nurses and other healthcare professionals who are on and/or supporting nurses on the frontlines.

In addition to authoring academic papers, Donna has a long history in classroom, experiential and online education, having taught and developed programs at the International Trauma Studies Program, Columbia and Seton Hall Universities. Donna holds master's degrees from Teachers College at Columbia University, Rutgers University, and a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. She was a Fellow at Columbia University School of Journalism and received a post-graduate certificate from the International Trauma Studies Program. Donna has a private practice focusing on trauma, loss and grief.