

50 YEARS OF MILESTONES

May 1965 Panel commissioned to study the feasibility of a nursing program at WCU

June 1969 N.C. Board of Nursing authorizes establishment of baccalaureate nursing program

July 1969 Mary K. Kneedler becomes first WCU nursing program department head

May 1973 First bachelor's degrees awarded

July 1992 Vivian Deitz, for whom the Deitz Outstanding Student Award is named, becomes director

July 1999 Sandra Greniewicki selected as director and leads faculty in admitting the Family Nurse Practitioner Program's inaugural cohort

May 2002 WCU alumnus **Vincent Hall '83** selected as director, later wins national award for AIDS research article

May 2003 1,500th bachelor's degree in nursing awarded

July 2003 Nursing instruction relocates to Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College's Enka campus

January 2007 First anesthesia class admitted

July 2007 Nursing program re-named the School of Nursing

March 2012 Judy Neubrandner becomes director, spearheads workforce diversity initiatives through two U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration grants

September 2012 Nursing instruction moves to newly opened Biltmore Park instructional site

February 2013 UNC Board of Governors approves WCU-UNCC doctor of nursing practice degree

July 2013 \$1 million federal workforce diversity grant awarded to increase nursing students from underserved rural populations

April 2015 School hosts the inaugural Western North Carolina Rural Health Symposium

August 2017 Thony Roberson becomes director after serving in roles at the University of Miami, Duke University, University of Alabama at Birmingham and University of Alabama

May 2018 BSN to DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program welcomes first cohort