

P RAXIS

Professionalism in behavior, presentation,
and conduct

Respectful of the richness and diversity of
others and of self

Accountability for my actions

eXcellence in scholarship, practice, teaching,
and service

Integrity, inquisitiveness, and innovation

Service to the profession and the community

UConn

ELISABETH DELUCA
SCHOOL OF NURSING



Accelerated BS/CEIN Commencement Ceremony

Tuesday, December 16th, 2025

**Jorgensen Center
for the Performing Arts**



Congratulations to our 2025 graduates!



UConn

ELISABETH DELUCA SCHOOL OF NURSING

Order of Exercises

University Marshal

Del Siegle, PhD, MS, BS
Lynn and Ray Neag Endowed Chair for Talent Development

Processional Welcome

Victoria Vaughan Dickson, PhD, RN, FAHA,
FHFA, FAAN
Dean and Professor, Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing

Commencement Speaker

Cheryl Ficara, RN, MS, NEA-BC
President of Hartford Hospital and Senior Vice President of Hartford HealthCare, UConn Alum

Student Speaker

Ashley Ware
2025 Accelerated BS/CEIN Graduate

Presentation of Candidates

Elizabeth Mayerson, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE
Director of Prelicensure Programs and Assistant Clinical Professor

Conferral of Degrees

Amy Gorin, PhD
Vice Provost for Health Sciences and Interdisciplinary Initiatives

Nursing PRAXIS Pledge

Diana Filipek-Oberg
President of the School of Nursing Alumni Board

Closing

Victoria Vaughan Dickson, PhD, RN, FAHA,
FHFA, FAAN
Dean and Professor, Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing

***Pellegrina (Peggy)
Lacovella Stolfi Clinical
Teaching Award***

Peggy Stolfi has embodied clinical teaching excellence in both our traditional and accelerated CEIN/BS nursing programs for the last 22 years. Not only did she love what she was doing every day, but she built strong relationships with clinical partners, most significantly the Hartford Public School System and Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Throughout her time at UConn, Peggy went above and beyond to create meaningful, memorable, and quality clinical learning experiences for our students.

***CCNW Peer Leader
Award***

The CCNW Peer Leader Award recognizes individuals who exemplify strong clinical competence, compassion, accountability, and professional growth. Recipients demonstrate leadership appropriate to their educational level, show respect for all people, work effectively as integral members of teams in both academic and community settings, and demonstrate a clear commitment to the nursing profession through their values, philosophy, and actions.



Kristie Bowdy
**Fundamentals/Health
Assessment Instructor**



Sherene Fagon
**Population-based
Instructor**



Denise Morris
**Community Health
Instructor**



Jennefer Park
Avery Point



Gallerie Quezada
Stamford



Ashley Ware
Storrs



Jillian Barbarito
Waterbury

2025 Excellence in Leadership Award



Cheryl Ficara
RN, MS, NEA-BC

Always a nurse first, Cheryl Ficara, President of Hartford Hospital and Senior Vice President of Hartford HealthCare, has built a career on trust, expertise, and thoughtful leadership since joining Hartford Hospital in 1990. She served as Vice President of Patient Care Services from 2011 until the fall of 2020 and then Senior Vice President of Operations for the hospital, navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and myriad changes in the healthcare environment, before being named President.

Throughout her career, Cheryl has worked in Critical Care, Surgical Services and Perioperative Services, taking on leadership roles, mentoring colleagues and developing initiatives – all with a steadfast focus on improving patient care.

Hartford HealthCare's flagship organization, Hartford Hospital, is an 867-bed, level 1 trauma center in Hartford, Conn., with an operating revenue of \$2 billion annually. In 2025, the American Hospital Association awarded Hartford HealthCare the Quest 4 Quality prize, recognizing the system's leadership and innovation in improving quality and advancing health. Hartford Hospital was named a Best Regional Hospital for 2025 by U.S. News & World Report and was ranked nationally in orthopedics, plus 13 conditions and procedures. The Leapfrog Group awarded an A safety grade to the hospital in 2025 for the eighth consecutive year and recognized it as a Top Teaching Hospital 4 years running. The Society of Thoracic Surgeons recognized Hartford Hospital as a top cardiac hospital three years in a row.

She has served as Executive Sponsor for several Hartford HealthCare councils including Perioperative Services and Clinical Care Redesign. She has a proven track record of strategic leadership, organizational culture building, and performance improvement in a challenging and rapidly evolving healthcare environment. She has a steadfast focus on patient experience, staff engagement, resilience, and wellness.

Cheryl's legacy at Hartford Hospital is apparent throughout the campus, contributing directly to the health system's success. She has created and implemented a variety of roles to support growth and talent development, including an OR and Surgical Technician Fellowship and a New Nurse Manager Cohort.

Cheryl is an active board member of several organizations and is a member of professional organizations, including the American Organization for Nursing Leadership.

She is a graduate of the University of Connecticut, where she earned both a Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing. She has completed the Nursing Leaders Program from Wharton and the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania. Cheryl resides in Somers, Connecticut with her husband Bob. She has two sons, Garrett and Austin.

Class of 2025 Graduates

AVERY POINT

Lindsay Bednarz *
Halle Chandler *
Alaina Deshefy *
Luke Hanratty
Heidi Henson
Lynia Hilke
Alice Hoffman
Vicky Hui
Amber Rose Kaldy *
Eli Kane
Lauren Lariviere
Francesca M. Ledoux
Maria Mack *
Ziyan Mao
Daniella Morse
Liz Orr *
Jennefer Park *
Bridget Souriyamath *
Iris Wainston *

STAMFORD

Deniz Alan
Amanda Aponte
Alekya Bokka *
Carla Calandra
EJ Cardenas +*
Heidi Cornell +*
Andrew Corsi *
Marea Fenili *
Santiago Forero *
James Garcia *
Jeannette Harris *
Deryck, WonSeok Kim *
Linda Ofosuhene *
Margaret Pell *
Gallerie Elizabeth Quezada *
Kevin Quezada Mejia
Margaret Quick
Emily Rubino *
Alexandra Scicchitano *
Stephanie Soltes
Alenka Soto *
Carolyn Spencer *
Julia Tiano

Class of 2025 Graduates

STORRS

Kamari Artis
Sehar Babar
Elena Blanchard *
Joanna Braga *
Grace Bretthauer
Jannell Brown *
Melany Chanthinith
Emelin Maria Colón Peña *
Sarah Coppola *
Angie Correa
Giulio D'Alatri +
Julia Duffy *
Vanessa Joy Earle *
Lojean Elsayed *
Julia Furmanek
Francine Garay *
Jessica Harris *
Rachel Iannazzo
Mekha Jebbu
Alec René Levesque
Britaney Lopez *
Akash Mahalwal *
Brittany Mangiameli
Melinda Morin *

Justin Moss
Hailey Nolan *
Stephany Pantaleo *
Arisai Perez Perez *
Miranda Piangerelli +
Julia Poulin *
Ana Reinoso Galindo *
Haley Rivard-Lentz *
Dellanira Rodriguez Perez
Shannon Romeo
Brooke Roussel *
Giavannah Scigliano
Abigail Shepard *
Syndey Simon *
Isabella Sienna Spaderna
Colleen Stafford *
Michael Sullivan
Dayshalee Torres *
Kelly Tran
Emily Tully *
Olivia Vanghele *
John Vo *
Ashley Ware *
Zachary Waterfall *

WATERBURY

Regina Anane *
Jillian Barbarito
Emily Bshara +
Ayanna Collymore
Tiara Cova
Sarah Renee DePratti
Rachel Nicole Dull
Tommy Duong *
Ashley Escobar
Andrea Fajardo *
Adam Thomas Flores *
Andrea Jane Hunt
Nicole Jaszczolt
Prabhjit Kaur *
Melina Kolonja
Elizabeth Lora
Karen Norris *
Chelsea M. Oritz *
Carolyn Quoka *
Mike Remache-Jeton
Nina Francesca Soriano
Rachel Strillacci *
Mariam Tkeshelashvili
Tyler Varasconi *
Molly Walker *
Lea White
Joshua Wittenberger *
Abenaa Yankson
Fethullah Izzet Numan
Yilmaz

BOLD = Class Officers

* = Sigma Theta Tau

+ Veterans & active military