

Inaugural Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient

Congratulations to **Dr. Charleen C. McNeill, PhD, RN**, the inaugural recipient of the Outstanding Nursing Alumni Award. Dr. McNeill grew up in Detroit, Michigan and Clarence, Iowa. After graduating high school, she moved to California, joined the U.S. Army, and proudly served for 13 years, starting in 1989. Dr. McNeill was the first female selected to be in a combat arms occupational specialty, the 14J Air Defense Early Warning System. One must be able to multi-task and perform under pressure in this specialty and Dr. McNeill carried these skills over to her extensive nursing career.



Dr. McNeill earned her ADN from the Coastal Georgia Community College, her BSN from the University of Arkansas, her MSN from The University of Texas El Paso, and her PhD in Nursing at The University of Texas at Tyler. Her academic experience includes teaching Human Biology, Nutrition, and Human Health and Disease at the University of Maryland University College (Asia/Europe Division) and Basic Nursing Skills at Midwestern State University. She is currently at the University of Arkansas teaching undergraduate courses in Disasters, Emergency Management, and Preparedness, Gerontology, and Research. In the graduate program, she teaches courses in Leadership, Economics, Finance, Scholarly Writing, and Hospital Operations. She also developed an entire master's degree program in Nurse Executive Leadership. She and her husband of 25 years, Perry McNeill, currently live in Fayetteville, Arkansas and they have two wonderful children, Darian and Perry Junior.

One of Dr. McNeill's nominators noted, "She sets goals and achieves them. She does this by accurate assessment of needs. Then she fearlessly approaches the right expert, gathers the right resources, and then will work hard at achieving success." Dr. McNeill's experience in emergency preparedness, in the military and in nursing, has led to her latest endeavor that is revolutionizing the way the State of Arkansas prepares the community for disasters. Her emergency preparedness module is training agents across the state, who then teach citizens across the state how to improve health outcomes in the wake of disaster, especially in communities most at risk. We are so proud of Dr. McNeill, inaugural recipient of the School of Nursing Outstanding Alumni Award!