PhD Student Receives $8,000 to Support Dissertation

USM College of Nursing PhD student, Tomekia Earl, has received $8,000 from NLN to support her dissertation. This scholarship is highly competitive and she received positive feedback about her proposal, which will explore the motivating factors for nurses pursuing a Doctoral degree.

Earl attributes her strong proposal to the preparation she received in our PhD program and had this to say, “I am appreciative of all the scholarly learning I have received at USM. I highly recommend anyone to pursue their doctorate at USM because the faculty have made a difference in my life personally and professionally.”
Boykins Interviewed by WHLT 22 on HIV in Forrest County

Dr. Anita Boykins, Associate Dean for The University of Southern Mississippi College of Nursing, provides her thoughts on HIV in Forrest County during an interview with WHLT 22 News. Read the interview in its entirety below.

According to a 2013 study by the Mississippi Department of Health, Forrest County is ranked number 3 in the state among new HIV infections. Also, Mississippi reported 556 cases of HIV infection.

It’s an epidemic that’s hitting the Pine Belt. Knowing your status can help prevent the spread.

“You want an early diagnosis. If you have the disease it’s very important to get tested early so you can begin treatment early as well,” Dr. Anita Davis Boykins of The University of Southern of Mississippi School of Nursing advised.

National HIV Testing Day is Saturday, June 27th, 2015.

AIDS Services Coalition of Hattiesburg is taking advantage of the day and hosting a free event for the community to get tested for HIV.

The event is 11 – 3 p.m. at First Tee Community Center.

“You need to know your status. It’s 1 in 6 people living with it and may not even know it, so we’re trying to get as many people out as possible,” Andrew Bates with AIDS Services Coalition said.

According to doctors, it’s important to know your status because HIV doesn’t only affect your physical health. It affects your psychiatric health as well.

“Depression, anxiety, they also as they get into the later stages of the disease they can cognitive problems such as dementia as well,” Boykins said.”

AIDS Services Coalition says taking advantage of National HIV Testing Awareness Day is a healthy measure that will go a long way.

Source: http://whlt.com/2015/06/25/forrest-county-near-top-in-hiv-cases/
DNP Student Successfully Defends Capstone Project

DNP student, Queen Walters, successfully defended her capstone project entitled, *Simulation and Educational Strategies to Decrease the Incidence of Medication Errors in a Small Rural Acute Care Hospital*. Dr. Kathleen Masters served as her committee chair and committee members included Drs. Janie Butts, and Cathy Hughes.

PhD Students Present at the Annual USM-UMMC Doctoral Seminar Day

Former Students are Emerging VA Leaders

Sam Mauldin, a former Fall 2012 BSN graduate and current BSN-PhD student recently completed all the requirement for Emerging VA Leaders. Justin Rioja, a former 2012 graduate on the Gulf Park campus also recently made this accomplishment!

Emerging VA Leaders is a six month leadership course. selected as one of only ten partipants/ nine graduates from the thousands of VA employees working at VA facilities including: Biloxi, MS; Mobile, AL; Panama City, FL; Pensacola, FL; and Eglin, FL.

Congratulations to both of you! We are very proud!