

Outstanding Faculty Award in Service, 2021-2022

Karen A. Faison, Ph.D., APRN-BC, CNE
Department of Nursing
Professor/Chair
College of Natural and Health Sciences

Dr. Karen A. Faison is a tenured professor and chair of the Department of Nursing in the College of Natural and Health Sciences. She received her BSN from Hampton University, MSN from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and PhD from Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Faison is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner by the American Nurses Credentialing Center and a Certified Nurse Educator by the National League for Nursing. She has been involved in professional nursing for 48 years with the majority of her practice focusing on nursing education and primary care for underserved populations.

Dr. Faison is very involved in curriculum and program development. Under her leadership, VSU was approved by SCHEV and SACSCOC to provide the first completely online program through the BSN completion program for Registered Nurses (RNs) whose highest degree is the hospital diploma or associate degree in nursing. The curriculum is taught asynchronously to currently employed RNs which provides the graduates for leadership roles in professional nursing practice. She facilitated the VSU Cares program to provide community based dental and health care services for populations with limited access to health care. Dr. Faison is a former equity and health ambassador with the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation whose focus was to align community engagement with policy and advocacy efforts. She is also a grant reviewer for the Cameron Foundation in Petersburg, Virginia which provides grant funds to organizations with innovations to improve access to healthcare services.

Dr. Faison is very focused on the health care needs of a global society. Through intercollaboration across disciplines, she is involved with health care practices and the promotion of primary care services locally, nationally and globally. This includes the opportunity for nurses to practice safe and effective healthcare practices among all populations across the lifespan with a focus on the needs of individuals in rural communities as well as urban settings. Dr. Faison is a member of the Steering Committee for the VSU Public Health Institute whose purpose is to address public health deficiencies in the surrounding VSU community. She is the VSU representative to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) where she serves as the Healthcare Administrator.

Dr. Faison works closely with the University Institutional Review Board and curriculum committees. She is very involved with professional organizations whose mission is to promote global health care practices with a community approach to equitable practices. She is the co-editor for the *Glowing Lamp*, a journal for the Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc., a global nursing sorority whose motto is "Service for Humanities." She is a member of several non-profit professional public service organizations where she is involved with several committees addressing diversity and equity, nominations, membership and education in a global society. Lastly, she is a member of the Southside Health Education Foundation (SHEF) whose purpose is to assist local students with the opportunity to enter a health career.