



-N250 Geriatric Clinical  
-N460 Course Coordinator: Epidemiology and Community  
Health Science  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
Bloomington, IL

August 2005 – May, 2008  
Adjunct Instructor in Nursing  
-Health Assessment Across the Lifespan: Labs  
-Community Health Clinical-Pediatric Focus  
-Pediatric Community Clinical  
Methodist College of Nursing  
Peoria, IL

August, 2005-May, 2008  
Adjunct Instructor in Nursing  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
Bloomington, IL

August, 2002 – 2005  
Visiting Instructor in Nursing  
Coordinator of Epidemiology/Community Health  
-N460 Epi/Community Theory and Clinical  
-N219 Nursing Processes (Communication)  
-N220 Health Assessment Lab  
-H330 Human Sexuality  
-N497 Neonatal ICU Internship  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
Bloomington, IL

August, 2006-December, 2006  
Temporary Full Time Faculty  
-OB/Peds Clinical Instructor  
Richland Community College  
Decatur, IL

Aug., 1999 – July, 2002  
Instructional Assistant Professor  
-OB/Pediatric Clinical  
-Community Health clinical  
-Health Assessment Labs  
Mennonite College of Nursing @ Illinois State University  
Normal, IL

April, 1999 – March, 2003  
Pediatric/Mother-Baby RN – Registry  
BroMenn Home Health  
Normal, IL

Jan., 1995 – May, 1999  
Clinical Instructor/Lecturer  
-Ob/Pediatric theory and clinical  
Mennonite College of Nursing  
Bloomington, IL

Mar., 1994 - July 1995  
Education Coordinator, Nursing Division  
Proctor Hospital  
Peoria, IL

April, 1992 - June, 1995  
Registry RN, Level II Nursery/Pediatrics  
BroMenn Regional Medical Center  
Bloomington, IL

Dec, 1991 - Mar., 1994  
Clinical Educator, Maternal/Child, Med/Surg  
Proctor Hospital  
Peoria, IL

Oct., 1990 - Nov., 1991  
Nurse Manager, Pediatrics  
Proctor Hospital  
Peoria, IL

May, 1989 - Oct., 1990  
Staff RN, Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit  
OSF Saint Francis Medical Center  
Peoria, IL

#### Research

2008 “Effect of oral stimulation on feeding progression in preterm infants.” Doctoral Dissertation Research

2005 NIH/NRSA Predoctoral Grant Submission (Scored):  
“Neurobehavioral responses of preterm infants to ATVV intervention.”

1995-1996 Research Assistant to Dr. Eileen Fowles:  
Fowles, E. (1999). The Brazelton neonatal behavioral  
assessment scale and maternal identity. *The American  
Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing*, 24(6), 287-293.

1995 Master's degree project: Original Research  
"Postpartum Mother's Perceptions of Competence  
for Newborn Care"

Professional Certifications

Neonatal Resuscitation Program Instructor  
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation  
Department of Children & Family Services: Certified  
Mandated Reporter (online 10/17/07)

Publications

White-Traut, R., Lessen, B. et al. (2005) The relationship of  
feeding readiness behaviors and behavioral state to feeding  
efficiency. *MCN*, 30(1), 52-59.

In Process:

Lessen, B. (2009) The effect of oral stimulation on feeding  
progression in preterm neonates. Original research (writing  
for *Advances in Neonatal Care*).

Lessen, B. & Beckman, D. (2009) The Beckman-Oral Motor  
Intervention-Preterm Infant (BOMI-PI): An adaptation for  
the preterm infant. Original research/new intervention  
(writing for *Neonatal Network*).

Lessen, B (2009) Integrating service-learning and research in  
public health: Body mass index in the low income population  
(writing for *The Journal of Community Health Nursing*).

Lessen, B. (2009) An academic-community partnership for  
service-learning in community health (writing for *The  
Journal of Nursing Education*).

Presentations

Sept, 2009 Accepted for Oral Presentation: National  
Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) National  
Conference  
Austin, TX  
"A New Oral Stimulation Program for Preterm Neonates:  
Effect on Feeding and Length of Stay"

April, 2009 STTI Theta Pi Induction Ceremony  
Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL  
“Effect of Oral Stimulation on Feeding Progression in  
Preterm Neonates: When to Implement Evidence in Practice”

April, 2009 Poster Presentation at STTI Evidence Based  
Practice Conference  
Illinois State University, Normal, IL  
“Effect of Oral Stimulation on Feeding Progression in  
Preterm Neonates”

March, 2009 Oral Presentation at National Association of  
Neonatal Nurses (NANN) National Summit  
Scottsdale, AZ  
“Effect of Oral Stimulation on Feeding Progression in  
Preterm Neonates”

April, 2008: Oral Presentation  
“Body Mass Index in Low Income School-Age Population”  
District 150 Administration  
Peoria, IL

September, 2007 Methodist College of Nursing  
“Reflective Journaling in Community Health Clinical”  
Peoria, IL

Sept. 2007 Annual Nursing Open House  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
“IWU Alumni-Research and Practice”

Nov, 2005: Oral Presentation  
Sigma Theta Tau International  
Biennial Convention  
Indianapolis, IN.  
“An Academic-Community Partnership for  
Service-Learning in Community Health”

Oct, 2003 Illinois Wesleyan University Nursing  
Convocation  
“The Oxford, UK Experience”

Sept, 2003 Annual Nursing Open House-Illinois  
Wesleyan University “IWU Alumni Perspectives”

Sept, 2002 Annual Nursing Open House-Illinois  
Wesleyan University “IWU Alumni-Professional Journey”

March, 1995 Research Convocation-Mennonite College of Nursing "Postpartum Mother's Perceptions of Competence for Newborn Care" – original research

1993-1995 Illinois Central College, School of Nursing Seminar "Pediatric Medication Administration"

1992 Richwoods High School, Child Development Seminar "The Hospitalized Child"

#### Conferences Attended

Evidence Based Practice Conference STTI Illinois State University, Normal, IL April 6, 2009

National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Summit, Scottsdale, AZ March 31-April 2, 2009

Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL Feb., 2008

HIPPA Research Training, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL March, 2008

Research Colloquium, Methodist College of Nursing, Peoria IL April, 2008.

Poverty Simulation, University of Illinois Extension, Peoria County, Peoria, IL April, 2008.

Take This Job...And Love IT! Methodist Medical Center of Illinois, Peoria May 11, 2006

Emerging Issues in Epidemiology Lake Mary, Florida May18-19, 2004

Influenza and Beyond; Responding to Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Atlanta, GA Jan 30, 2004

Nurse Your Patient, Nurse Yourself Springfield, IL Sept 11. 2003

Health Literacy and Public Health Nursing Workshop Chicago, IL Sept 10, 2003

Making Change Happen: Translating Research into MCH  
Public Health Practice: Eliminating Health Disparities  
Chicago, IL April 27-29, 2003

Wired Communities: Putting the *e* in Public Health  
Atlanta, GA Webcast Jan 31, 2003

KRON Nutritive Sucking Apparatus University of  
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (Resident Researcher)  
Jan 21-27, 2003

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Neonatology Critical Care Symposium  
Cincinnati, OH Nov 8, 2002

Rewards, Recognition, and Imagination: Celebrate Nursing  
Heartland Community College, Bloomington, IL Sept 19,  
2002

#### Continuing Education

Successful completion of the following continuing education  
programs:

Summer School on Connectionist Modeling  
Oxford University, UK July 20-August 1, 2003  
(Competitive admission)

Health Information Privacy Protection: Crisis or  
Common Sense? ANA On-line Study Module May, 2003

Human Participant Protection Education for Research Teams  
NIH National Cancer Institute On-Line Course August 1-13,  
2003

Disaster Preparedness and Response for Nurses STTI On-  
line Case Study Feb 20, 2003

#### Service History

Illinois Wesleyan University  
2008-2009 Curriculum Revision Committee  
Student Advisory Committee – Chair  
Faculty Sponsor: Student Internship – NICU  
NRP Training: Student  
2003 Illinois Wesleyan University Panel Member:  
Department of Sociology  
2002-03 Nursing Open House Alumni Panel Presentation

2004 Honors Research Committee: Sociology Dept.  
“Contraceptive Education within Families-Issues  
with Abstinence and Other Perspectives”  
2002-2009 Faculty Sponsor: Student Internships - NICU  
2002-2009 NRP Training: Faculty and Students  
2002-04 Curriculum Committee  
2002-2006 Guest Lecturer for Nursing/Health Courses

Appointments

Advancing Public Health Nursing Education (APHNE)  
State Advisory Board Member (IL) 2002-2005  
APHNE Regional Consortia Member (Urbana and Peoria)  
2002-2005  
Community Health Assessment Committee - McLean  
County Health Department 2002-2005  
Head Start Health Advisory Committee - McLean County  
2002-2005  
APHA National Mentoring Program: Public Health Mentor  
2003-2007

Professional Memberships

Illinois Nurses Association  
Sigma Theta Tau International– Xi Pi: Program Committee  
AAN Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science  
National League for Nursing

Political Activities

February, 2009 Political Letters of Support to  
Representative Tim Johnson, Senators Durbin and Burris re:  
House provision to increase support for nurse training.

April, 2005 Political Letter of Support to Senator Durbin  
and Senator Obama, Illinois, re: Child Nutrition Promotion and  
School Lunch Protection Act (S. 771)

July, 2003 Political Letter of Support to Congressman Peter  
Fitzgerald, Illinois, re: Nurse Reinvestment Act

Jan, 2003 Political Letter of Support to Congressman Tim  
Johnson, 15<sup>th</sup> district, IL re: Nurse Reinvestment Act

August, 1997 Political Letter of Support to State  
Representative Bill Brady re: HB 1076 Amendment to the  
Nursing Act