

Best Practice – Education Karen Kohrt Ringl, MSN, RN



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A transformational leader and educator, Karen creates an optimal learning environment that consistently enables nursing students to flourish.

Karen Ringl is an inventive, results-oriented educator who creates an environment where students have an opportunity to develop their full potential. Demonstrating innovation in assignments that prepare members of a diverse student population to be exemplary professional nurses and leaders, Karen actively engages students in the learning process. She requires students to participate in interdisciplinary teams; utilizes the ANA *Code of Ethics* to debate ethical issues; and plans, develops, implements and evaluates a change project so learners clearly understand all aspects of successful change. As a team member for a HRSA grant, Karen collaborates with other faculty to incorporate mentoring into the curriculum and facilitates student mentor/mentee teams. This innovative work helps students succeed and reduces attrition.

Prior to her career in academia, Karen was a vice president of nursing for various hospitals in Southern California and Chicago. Her varied experience in service and education provides a rich background of knowledge and expertise. She consistently receives outstanding student evaluations and has been nominated twice for the *Daisy Faculty Award*. She is also a key player in the development of successful partnerships between service and academia. Utilizing a university-sponsored grant, Karen encourages her students to attend professional nursing events. Through the years, she has brought hundreds of nursing students to ACNL's annual conferences, providing a powerful introduction to nurse leadership and our organization.