



NEXT GENERATION NURSES

STEM Fields: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math
... *and* **NURSING.**

- 1 Clear the mind of pre-judgments.
- 2 Analyze a phenomenon's component parts.
- 3 Start with the simplest before moving to the more complex.
- 4 Observe and record all data.

This is the scientific method. From its seventeenth-century father René Descartes runs a direct lineage to nurse statistician Florence Nightingale in the nineteenth century. Today's nurse scientists inherit it in qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods research.

Nursing is a branch of the STEM disciplines -- science, technology, engineering, and math. As Dean Regina Cusson observes, "Nursing blends STEM fields by uniquely applying sciences like physiology, anatomy, chemistry, physics, genetics, pathophysiology, and pharmacology for effective nursing care and enhanced patient outcomes." Archival research by School of Nursing historian Jennifer Telford reveals founding Dean Carolyn Ladd Widmer's commitment to our students' broad and deep engagement with the sciences. Science is in UConn Nursing's genes.

Associate Dean Jacqueline McGrath, who leads our research and scholarship efforts, adds that "Nursing is the heart of STEM, a holistic approach that uniquely blends these different sciences together to enhance patient outcomes." Although scientific discovery is readily associated with our PhD program and its faculty, according to Associate Clinical Professor Sandra Bellini, scientific application is also the cornerstone of our DNP program, which she directs.

In this issue of *Unison* we feature the School of Nursing's place in science. ■