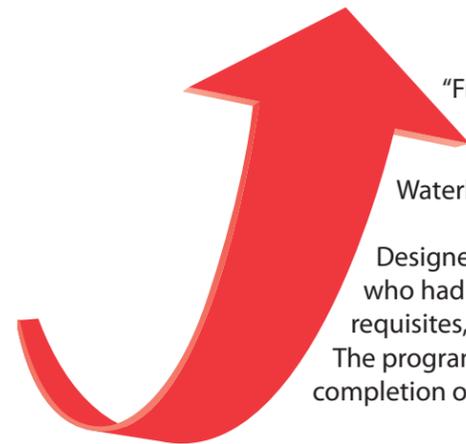




From left: CEIN /BS student Harry Falcigno, with CEIN/BS Director Nancy Manister, and CEIN/BS students Michelle Hogan and Greg Orfitelli.

## CEIN Program Soaring Popularity



“From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow,” according to the popular proverb, and a decade after its inception CEIN/BS (originally called Master’s Entry into Nursing or MEIN) has grown from one site in Storrs to four, including Waterbury, Stamford, and Avery Point.

Designed as an eleven-month intensive didactic and clinical program for students who had already earned bachelor’s degrees and who had met the science prerequisites, MEIN admitted many older adults who were undergoing career transitions. The program also facilitated entry into UConn Nursing’s master’s programs. Upon completion of the program students qualified to sit for the NCLEX exam.

Several years into the program, however, the School of Nursing’s administration discovered that some healthcare institutions required bachelor’s degrees in nursing. Fortunately, strategic thinking with the UConn administration resulted in the awarding of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing upon completion of the program. CEIN/BS was reborn.

## Employers value the high standards of our program and recognize our students as being very professional.

— Director Nancy Manister

The demographics of students today have also changed. As CEIN/BS Director Dr. Nancy Manister observed, “More and more we are attracting students who are younger, and some are coming right from their undergraduate programs. Our current class ranges in age from 21 to over 55 years, with more than half in their mid-twenties. A quarter of our students are male, reflecting a nationwide trend of males entering the nursing workforce.”

Those who are in the midst of career transitions bring special gifts to the program. “For students coming right from a baccalaureate program, some changed from a health related career trajectory and others decided too late in their college career to change their major to nursing,” Manister explained. “Students with work experience bring a tremendous richness and maturity to the program and are able to share these with classmates and apply their world view when they frame patient case studies. Our program has several students with military backgrounds, and some have served in the Peace Corps.”

Because the program is very demanding, admission is highly competitive. The average GPA of students is 3.4 for undergraduate classes, and 3.6 for program prerequisites.

CEIN/BS graduates likewise find themselves very competitive on the job market. “We have seen an increase in the number of CEIN/BS grads gain employment by the time of graduation,” Manister explained. “By March, well over half of the December 2015 graduates had full-time positions already. Some had two and three job offers. Employers value the high standards of our program and recognize our students as being very professional.”

Students at all four locations have the same quality learning experiences. “Each campus now has two full-time faculty and a simulation laboratory for high and low fidelity simulation experiences,” Manister said. “Students spend time at the beginning of each course developing related skills in a controlled environment. Our students have a higher percentage of clinical experiences than some of our competitors, and we feel that this makes our students stronger.”

### Nancy N. Manister

DNS, CNS, APRN  
Director, School of  
Nursing CEIN/BS  
Program, Associate  
Clinical Professor



New director of the School of Nursing’s CEIN/BS program Associate Clinical Professor Nancy N. Manister earned her BSN from Wagner College in New York, a master’s degree from Pace University with research on maternal-infant health, a post-master’s family nurse practitioner certificate from Pace University, and later a DNS from City University of New York.

Manister has been a nurse educator since 2004, teaching at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, New York, and later at Fairfield University.

Her clinical practice began as a staff nurse in a neonatal intensive care unit and nursery, then progressed to private practice lactation consulting and a nurse clinician at Mount Sinai Hospital. She has also had a clinical practice at Concordia College Health Office in Bronxville, acting as the assistant director of College Health Service for primary care of faculty, staff and college students, while maintaining a private practice caring for community clients. In addition to her new position at UConn, Manister is a nursing research consultant to Stamford Hospital.

She recently completed the Sigma Theta Tau International - Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy, a 20-month intensive leadership development experience.