



NEWSLETTER



“WCCN kicked-off 2025 with a bang! From milestone retirement achievements, wide-eyed first years, and the poignant hand-over of epaulettes.

So, when you find a moment, recline and enjoy the latest news from WCCN.”

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Epaulette Ceremony: Laden Shoulders...

Across all Western Cape College of Nursing campuses, a poignant tradition has taken root: the annual epaulette handover. This meaningful ceremony marks a significant milestone in the journey of student nurses, symbolising their progress and achievement in their respective programmes.

The occasion is not only a celebration of academic accomplishment but also an opportunity for lecturers to offer words of encouragement, urging students to persevere and strive for excellence.

This year's ceremony was particularly memorable, as students were reminded that they are not alone in their academic journey. Lecturers, campus heads, and esteemed guests reassured them that they are part of a supportive community that walks alongside them every step of the way. .

At the Boland Campus, second-year students were treated to a special appearance by the Primary Health Care Manager from the Breede Valley Sub-District, who shared inspiring words of encouragement. Meanwhile, third-year students across the three campuses received a rallying cry: "No late submissions! Utilise every available resource the college has to offer, and cruise through your final year with confidence."



**New kids on
the block!**



Welcoming a New Era: WCCN's 2025 Orientation

"The Western Cape College of Nursing (WCCN) embarked on an exciting new chapter with the 2025 orientation, marking the beginning of a fresh academic year. Dr. Bock, Academic Registrar and Acting Director, set the tone with a clear vision: "Our mission is to become the premier nursing college in South Africa."

As new and familiar faces converged on the respective WCCN campuses, the atmosphere was electric. The sound of chatter and laughter filled the air, breaking the usual post-recess lull. Dr. Bock reiterated WCCN's core values – Integrity, Collaboration, Accountability, Respect, Excellence, and Compassion – emphasising the importance of embodying these principles in all aspects of nursing education.

The newly registered students were reminded of their good fortune in being selected, given the record-breaking number of applications received in 2024. Video messages from WCCN's academic management ensured that all campuses received a warm welcome.

A highlight of the orientation was the return of former students to new programmes, a proud moment for lecturers who had previously guided them. As always, orientation laid the foundation for the upcoming year, and we hope that the 2025 orientation has set a benchmark for years to come.



What's
next?

Mastering Triage: Enhancing Patient Care through Expert Training



As part of their Nursing Science curriculum, third-year students from WCCN Boland/Overberg gathered at the Erica lecturing hall for an insightful lesson on triage, expertly conducted by Dr. W. Hansen.

Dr. Hansen explained that triage is a systematic process used by nurses to rapidly assess and prioritise patients' needs based on the severity of their condition. The ultimate goal of triage is to ensure timely and appropriate care, particularly in emergency or high-volume situations.

This specialised training aims to enhance students' knowledge and skills in identifying emergencies, preventing serious threats to patients' lives, and providing top-notch care to the community.

By mastering triage, our nursing students will embody WCCN's commitment to excellence, delivering high-quality patient care and becoming exceptional healthcare practitioners.

Boland Campus Unveils State-of-the-Art Simulation Laboratory

The Boland Campus of Western Cape College of Nursing (WCCN) proudly launched its Simulation Laboratory for 2025, offering first-year nursing and midwifery students a unique, hands-on introduction to their chosen professions.



Midwifery students, dressed in their nursing attire, took center stage, acquiring essential skills in history taking, abdominal assessments, fetal monitoring, and pregnancy and birth-related content. In parallel, first-year nursing students were immersed in basic hospital practices and patient etiquette, focusing on bedside care and patient management.

Lecturers from both programmes were impressed by the students' practical skills, demonstrating significant growth and development. This simulation-based training is a testament to WCCN's commitment to producing professionals who deliver exceptional, high-quality healthcare.

The
students
did
what?

Bon Voyage Colleagues!



Dressed to the nines, retired colleagues, Fundiswa Fadana, Lorraine Hill, Rochelle Raatz, Cecilia Hess and Ashie Mathura were bid farewell in the annual WCCN retirement function.

Hosted at Metro Campus, the retirees were joined by the Deputy Director General, Mr. Kaye, Chief Director (People Management), Ms. Arries, selected guests, WCCN management and direct colleagues of the retirees.

Their incredible contributions to the achievements of the college was lauded by Ms. Arries, who addressed the retirees to thank them for their years of service and the system they helped build.

Mr. Kaye, pointed out how poignant it was for the attending retirees to have brought their daughters along with them, for them to witness the transition for their parent from lecturer to retiree, and to wish them well in their new journey of learning and curiosity.

Set on a new path of discovery beyond their decades long career, WCCN wishes them all well on their new journey.



50 Never
Looked
So Good!

Celebrating a Milestone Birthday: A Tribute to Rene Miller



It was a day filled with joy, love, and celebration as our beloved colleague, Ms. Miller, marked a significant milestone – her 50th birthday!

The atmosphere was electric as colleagues gathered to honour this special moment in her life. The room was filled with warm wishes, heartfelt messages, and fond memories shared by those who have had the pleasure of working alongside her.

This milestone birthday celebration was a testament to the strong bonds and camaraderie that exist within our Institution. It was a beautiful reminder that milestones, big or small, are cherished and celebrated together.

As Ms. Miller embarks on this new chapter, we wish her continued happiness, good health, and success. Here's to many more years of love, laughter, and adventure!

Special Thanks

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Kirsten, Ms Miller's line manager, for making this special day possible. Her efforts in driving this initiative and involving everyone in the celebration made it a truly unforgettable experience for Ms. Miller. Thank you, Ms. Kirsten, for your kindness, thoughtfulness, and leadership!



No 'Flopping' Allowed on Flip-Flop Day!



Western Cape College of Nursing (WCCN) students showcased their creativity and personality on Flip-Flop Day, with ten talented individuals decorating their own unique flip-flops.

Congratulations to the winners, who strutted their stuff and took home fantastic prizes, earning the coveted title of Best Flip Floppers!

A huge thank you to Ms. Engelbrecht for making this fun event possible.

Flip-Flop Day is more than just a fashion statement – it's a reminder to take a step back, relax, and prioritise self-care. In the midst of busy academic schedules, it's essential to remember the importance of unwinding and recharging.



Love is in the Air: WCCN Campuses Celebrate Valentine's Day in Style!

The George and Boland Campuses were abuzz with excitement as students came together to celebrate the most romantic day of the year – Valentine's Day!

The atmosphere was electric, filled with warmth, joy, and love, as students took a well-deserved break from their academic responsibilities. The event was a beautiful reminder that love, kindness, and friendship are just as important as textbooks and exams.

To sweeten the celebration, a mouth-watering array of treats, including decadent cupcakes and adorable heart-shaped cookies, was shared among students. The sugary delights brought smiles to everyone's faces, making the day even more unforgettable.

Valentine's Day at WCCN was more than just a festive celebration – it was a powerful reminder of the importance of community, kindness, and compassion. The event fostered a sense of belonging, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where every student felt valued, appreciated, and loved.

As the celebration came to a close, students left with cherished memories, renewed friendships, and heart full of love. The event was a resounding success, showcasing the transformative power of love, kindness, and connection.



Students Empowered in Library Orientation

By: WCCN
Library Team

The WCCN Library recently hosted a series of engaging library orientation sessions (Face to face and Online) designed to equip our first-year nursing students with essential information literacy skills.

These sessions aimed to introduce students to the vast array of academic resources available, ensuring they have the tools needed to navigate their studies with confidence.

Library staff guided students through key services, including accessing e-books and journal databases and understanding referencing techniques. The orientation also covered essential academic skills such as avoiding plagiarism, evaluating sources using the CRAAP method, and structuring assignments.

Beyond the practical skills, the sessions highlighted the library's role as a support system throughout their nursing journey. Whether they need assistance with literature searches, citation guidance, or simply a quiet space to study, the library remains a crucial partner in their academic success.

Feedback from students and lecturers has been positive, with many requesting follow up sessions closer to assignments. For those who missed the sessions, additional resources and individual support are available upon request.

A big thank you to the lecturers who organised and joined, IT team and to all students who participated with enthusiasm! We look forward to supporting our future nurses as they embark on this academic adventure.

For more information or to schedule a library session, please contact the WCCN Library team.



Who's New?

Estelle Matthews - R1497 Lecturer - Metro Campus

I've been practicing nursing for more than 30 years; whether as an RN for the City of Cape, a trainer and facilitator at Karl Bremer and I have once again reinvented myself as a midwifery lecturer.

My career started at Sarleh Dollie, and I later ventured into Nursing Education and Primary Health Care at CPUT and Stellenbosch University.

I hope my time at WCCN will afford me an opportunity to learn more.



Shamilla Naicker - R171 Lecturer - Metro Campus

My nursing journey started in 1996 at RK Khan Nursing College in Kwa-Zulu Natal; where after I was working at as a trainer and facilitator.

I hope to further pursue my education, in hopes of improving nursing education.

WCCN has already taught me new ICT skills, which I hope adds to my teaching techniques.



Edgar Ross: Artisan - Metro Campus

I've been an artisan for several years, some of those years spent was working at Groote Schuur Hospital.

I am excited to join the workshop-team and dedicated to adding my expertise to the rest of the team.



A bit of this, and a bit of that...

