

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Contact: Brittney Edwards  
859-899-2515, [Brittney.edwards@frontier.edu](mailto:Brittney.edwards@frontier.edu)

**Frontier Nursing University Hosts 5th Annual PRIDE Diversity Impact Event:  
Students and Alumni Unite to Focus on Increasing Diversity in Nursing**

Hyden, Ky - Frontier Nursing University (FNU) hosted its 5th Annual PRIDE Diversity Impact Event on the FNU campus in Hyden, Kentucky, June 5-7, 2015. Students, alumni, faculty and staff united for fellowship, networking and to participate in team-building exercises and leadership discussions related to increasing diversity in nursing and midwifery. Attendance at this year's event was the highest yet, along with the largest online viewing audience, with a combined total of 105 registered conference attendees.

This year's Diversity Impact Event was coordinated by PRIDE Coordinator Wilvena Bernard and included education sessions led by FNU faculty members and students, including a range of diversity topics that addressed health disparities, bullying in the workplace, gender topics and other diversity issues in healthcare.

The keynote session was led by [Dr. Scharmaine Lawson-Baker](#), a nationally recognized and award-winning nurse practitioner in New Orleans, Louisiana. After Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Baker was instrumental in caring for the sick and disabled in New Orleans, where hospitals had closed and doctors had evacuated but never returned. Her patient load went from 100 to 500 in only three months. Her passion and unwavering dedication to caring for homebound patients is what prompted an interview with CBS. Informing patients on their health care and encouraging them to participate in decisions became an inspiration focus for her book release "Nola the Nurse".

[View the Summary of Diversity Impact 2015](#)

**FNU PRIDE Program Background:**

To address the need to increase diversity within the nursing and midwifery workforce, FNU established the PRIDE Program (Promoting Recruitment and Retention to Increase Diversity in Nurse-Midwifery and Nurse Practitioner Education). The ultimate goal of the PRIDE Program is to recruit and retain qualified underrepresented students in our graduate school of nursing who will meet the health care demands of an increasingly diverse population. The PRIDE Program seeks to partner with institutions around the country to provide advanced practice nursing and midwifery education to students who may not otherwise have access to graduate level programs in their area. Learn more about PRIDE at [www.frontier.edu/PRIDEprogram](http://www.frontier.edu/PRIDEprogram). Learn more about FNU's Annual PRIDE Diversity Impact Event at [www.frontier.edu/DiversityImpact](http://www.frontier.edu/DiversityImpact).

**About Frontier Nursing University:**

FNU is a graduate school of nursing located in Hyden, KY, which offers distance education programs for nurses to obtain a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) or Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree with specialty tracks for nurse-midwifery, family nurse practitioner and women's health care nurse practitioner certifications. [www.frontier.edu](http://www.frontier.edu)