

## THE DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM WELCOMED ITS FIRST GRADUATE:

Tracy Hardy, DNP, APRN

Marilyn Daley\*, DNP, APRN, AACC  
Associate Professor & Director of the Doctoral Nursing Program,  
Division of Nursing and Health Professions, Rivier University

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program welcomed its first graduates this December. We would like to spotlight one of them, **Tracy Hardy** who is a faculty member in the Division of Nursing and Health Professions and staffs the on-campus health clinic. Welcome Dr. Hardy!



*From left:* Dr. Paula Williams, Dean of the DONAHP; Tracy Hardy, DNP, APRN; Donna Proulx, Director of the Graduate Nursing Program; Dr. Marilyn Daley, Director of the Doctoral Nursing Program.

**T**racy Hardy graduated with her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from the University of New Brunswick, Canada in 1994, and from the M.S./Nursing: Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Program at Rivier University in Nashua, NH in 2004. Since becoming an advanced practice nurse she has worked in internal medicine, and is currently employed as the Co-Director of Rivier University's Health Services and full-time faculty in the Masters of Science in Nursing (FNP) Program. Tracy has been active in supporting long-term community connections with Rivier's nursing students and has supported faculty lead mission trips with the students.

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The title of Tracy's clinical doctorate project is "*Firefighter Occupational Cancer Risk: Starting The Conversation*". Many studies have shown firefighters have a higher risk of developing occupational related cancers. The aim of Tracy's project was to determine if a 20 minute educational session would increase the firefighter's knowledge of occupational cancer risk and increase the firefighter's motivation to have a conversation with their Primary Care Provider (PCP) in regards to their occupational cancer risk. A critical component of her project included creating an educational wallet card that firefighters can use as a tool to help facilitate this conversation with their PCP. The overarching goal of Tracy's project was based on the potential that motivating firefighters to have a conversation with their PCP in regards to their occupational cancer risk could potentially result in earlier detection of cancers in firefighters, leading to increased survival rates. The informational wallet card designed to prompt conversation between a firefighter and their PCP may also have a secondary effect of increasing health care provider awareness of occupational related cancer risk in the firefighter population.

Tracy was awarded a faculty scholarship grant which helped support the creation of her wallet cards. In February 2019, Tracy will travel to a national convention in New Orleans to present her project in support of creating healthy work environments. ■

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\* **MARILYN DALEY**, DNP, APRN, AACC, is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Doctoral Nursing Program in the Division of Nursing and Health Professions at Rivier University. Dr. Marilyn Daley was named Nurse Practitioner of the Year by the New Hampshire Nurse Practitioner Association in May 2018.