

Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing

Brief History

In 1901, on the corner of Proctor Street and Cozart Avenue, a frame structure was erected to serve as a hospital for the Black community. Mr. Washington Duke had planned to erect a monument in memory of the slaves who had served his family during the antebellum period. Credit is given to Drs. Aaron M. Moore, Mr. Stanford L. Warren and Mr. John Merrick who convincingly argued that a hospital for descendants of slaves would be more serviceable than a monument.

Although the hospital was for the care of black people, it became obvious that there was a need to have trained nurses. Through the special efforts of Dr. Charles Shepard and Ms. Julia Latta, Lincoln Hospital Nurse Training School was founded in 1903.

Ms. Julia Latta, co-founder of the school served as superintendent in a dual role from 1903 to 1911. There were six superintendents/directors over the course of the school's operation from 1903-1971. They were Mrs. Pattie Carter, 1912-1935 and 1935-36; Mrs. Henrietta Forrest, 1936-1937; Ms. Mary Gray, 1938-1943; Mrs. Edith Steele Scott, 1944-1945; and Mrs. Beulah Porter Jackson, 1945-1971 and Mrs. Lucille Zimmerman Williams, 1945-1971.

The original program was a two year diploma program until 1915 when it was extended to three years. The school admitted two classes a year until 1945 and then classes were admitted only once a year. Admission requirements included a high school diploma and the addition of an entrance exam beginning in the 50s..

The objective of the school of nursing was to prepare young black

women to fulfill the nursing role in a changing democratic sophisticated society. The curriculum design included courses in natural and social sciences which were taught at North Carolina College, now North Carolina Central University, in Durham, N. C. The specialty areas of Pediatrics and Psychiatry were taught through affiliations at Friedman's Hospital, Washington, D.C.; Meharry Hospital, Nashville, TN; Crownsville Hospital, Maryland; Eastern State Hospital, Lexington, KY; Cherry Hospital, Goldsboro, N.C.; John Umstead Hospital, Butner, N.C.; Bellevue Hospital, Bellevue, NY; Children's Hospital, Cincinnati, OH; The Children Hospital of South Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA., Scarborough Nursery and Watts Hospital, Durham, N.C.

Instruction and supervision of students were done by physicians and nursing supervisors within the hospital. Initially, the tuition for the program was free and students provided much service to the patients. Later years, students experienced a rise in tuition but continued to provide service to the hospital.

As a result of a fire in 1922 that partially destroyed the facility and the need for more space, Lincoln Hospital and the School of Nursing moved to its second location on Fayetteville Street and Linwood Avenue.

Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing graduated 614 young women who were prepared to meet the challenges of nursing. Graduates have achieved international, national and state recognition for notable contributions to nursing. There are many who have been recognized as "the first" in numerous areas within the profession.

In 1971, the school of nursing closed but the contributions and achievements of its graduates continue. How frequently we hear the phrase, "she's a Lincoln Nurse".

It was a deliberate decision to continue alumni activities every two years

with nurses and friends of Lincoln locally and nationally so that we may carry on the Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing tradition. In 2003, the alumni celebrated its Centennial.

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