

Christina Granato, Ed.D., FNP, MS, RN: Advancing Nursing Education And ESL Student Success Through Leadership

From Clinical Nursing to Academic Leadership, Granato's Work Focuses on Advancing Student Success in Health Professions, With a Special Emphasis on ESL Nursing Students



Syracuse, New York Jun 30, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.IssueWire.com)) - Christina Granato, Ed.D, FNP, MS, RN, has built a distinguished career in nursing education, academic leadership, and student advocacy, most recently serving as Retired Dean for Health and Community Services at Onondaga Community College. With decades of experience spanning clinical practice and higher education, Granato has dedicated her professional life to strengthening pathways for nursing students and improving outcomes in health

professions education.

Granato's career began in direct patient care, where she worked as a critical care nurse specializing in cardiac care. She later advanced to the role of Nurse Manager of a Cardiac Care Unit, overseeing clinical operations while leading multidisciplinary healthcare teams and ensuring high standards of patient care. These formative years at the bedside established the foundation for her lifelong commitment to nursing excellence, compassionate patient care, and the professional development of future nurses. Her firsthand understanding of the demands of clinical practice has remained a guiding influence throughout her career in nursing education and academic leadership.

Granato began her academic journey at Finger Lakes Community College, where she earned an Associate's degree in Applied Science in Nursing between 1972 and 1974. She continued her education at Syracuse University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1976 and a Master of Science in Nursing in 1982. Her commitment to advanced practice and education led her to complete a post-master's Family Nurse Practitioner certification in 1998, followed by a post-master's degree in nurse education from the State University of New York at Upstate College of Nursing in 2005. In 2006, she achieved national certification as a Nurse Educator.

After several years in hospital-based nursing, Granato transitioned into academia, joining Onondaga Community College as a faculty member and later serving as Chair of Nursing before advancing to the role of Academic Dean for Health and Community Services. In this leadership position, she focused on expanding academic support systems and strengthening program accessibility for diverse student populations, including those for whom English is a second language.

Her work increasingly centered on addressing equity in nursing education, particularly improving success rates among ESL students in associate degree programs. Recognizing the challenges faced by multilingual learners, Granato developed initiatives aimed at identifying barriers to academic progression and promoting instructional strategies that support persistence and degree completion.

In the summer of 2016, Granato enrolled in the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Executive Leadership program at St. John Fisher University. Under the guidance of Dr. Kim VanDerLinden and Dr. Loretta Quigley, her doctoral research focused on exploring both barriers to success and the characteristics that contribute to persistence among ESL nursing students in associate degree programs.

Throughout her career, Granato has combined clinical expertise, academic leadership, and research-driven inquiry to enhance nursing education. Her contributions continue to influence how institutions support diverse student populations and prepare future healthcare professionals for success in an increasingly globalized healthcare environment.

Learn more about Christine Granato:

Through America's Best in Medicine, <https://americasbestinmedicine.com/>

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users can access a community of leaders, opportunities for providers to share expertise, and trusted guidance for patients and peers alike.

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