



UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY
of the Health Sciences



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Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist Program Director

Linda Wanzer is the director of the Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Program at the USU Graduate School of Nursing. In addition to creating the curriculum that established this Master's of Science program option, she also provides oversight for the direction of curriculum development based on the American Academy for Colleges of Nursing guidelines outlining Essentials of Masters Education for Advanced Practice Nursing and the CNS Core Competencies outlined by the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists. In this role, COL (Ret) Wanzer is responsible for teaching, research, program policy and administrative assignments. Furthermore, she works to ensure the overall goal of the program is achieved – producing advanced practice nurses who are educated to see the “big picture” of managing quality perioperative care supporting both the individual and populations, analyzing healthcare systems/processes, and guiding change for organizational success in the provision of evidence based/quality patient care in diverse settings world-wide.

COL (Ret) Wanzer was born in Bremerton, Washington into a career Army family. She was awarded a four-year Army ROTC scholarship, attended the University of Oregon for two years and transferred to San Jose State University where she completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She graduated in 1980 with academic honors, earning the Distinguished Military Honor Graduate. In 1990, she earned a Master of Science in Nursing with a focus in nursing administration and a minor in education.

Her journey from novice to expert began at 5th General Hospital as a staff nurse on the Labor & Delivery and Medical-Surgical units. She served as Head Nurse of the Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat Surgical Services at Letterman Army Medical Center; Head Nurse of General Surgery and Open Heart Service at Eisenhower Army Medical Center; Assistant Head Nurse of the Operating Room at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center; Director of Surgical Nursing Services at Evans Army Community Hospital; Chief Operating Room/Central Materiel Services at Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center in Germany; and Director of the Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist (PCNS) master's program at USU. COL (Ret) Wanzer was selected as the Perioperative Consultant to the Army Surgeon General in 2005, giving further testament to her national recognition as a clinical expert. Furthermore, in 2006, she temporarily assumed the role of Acting Dean of the Graduate School of Nursing.

COL(Ret) Wanzer has received many awards throughout her career including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medals, and the Order of Military Medical Merit. In her civilian career in academia, she has received the USUHS Exceptional Service Award, USUHS Outstanding Service Award, GSN Dean's Teaching Excellence Award, and the Dean's First Time Investigator Research Award.

Nationally involved, COL (Ret) Wanzer's commitment to the perioperative community led to her national appointment on Association of Operating Room Nurses (AORN) Presidential Commission for Patient Safety and AORN's National Task Force for Advanced Practice Nursing. She also served as a subject matter expert and advisor for the development of the AORNs Perioperative Medication Safety Recommended Practices Guideline.

COL (Ret) Wanzer has authored more than 30 articles, book chapters, manuals, national tool kits, position/guidance statements and completed a funded grant.