



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**

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**University of Colorado College of Nursing's Center for Midwifery  
is Designated as an American Academy of Nursing Edge Runner**

**AURORA**, Colo. (August 30, 2022) – The University of Colorado College of Nursing at Anschutz Medical Campus is pleased to announce that its Center for Midwifery has been designated as an Edge Runner by the American Academy of Nursing.

Edge Runners are nurse-designed, innovative models of care or interventions with significant, demonstrated outcomes to improve health, impact cost and influence policy. Each of these programs highlights nurses' ingenuity and collaboration in developing new methods to provide care and promote health equity.

"It's an incredible honor that the Center for Midwifery was named an Edge Runner by the Academy," said CU College of Nursing Associate Professor and Director of Midwifery Services Jessica Anderson, DNP, CNM, WHNP, FACNM. "Since its inception in 2004, the Center for Midwifery has developed an approach that enhances patient satisfaction by providing high-quality, evidence-based healthcare that supports access, options, and shared decision making. This exemplary nurse-led practice is regarded as one of the nation's top midwifery faculty practice and education centers and we're thrilled that the Academy recognizes this work."

The center incorporates holistic care and expert midwifery skills with the goal of providing a safe and satisfying experience that empowers patients. As part of its core philosophy, the practice encourages every pregnant patient to complete a "birth wishes" list that outlines what they envision for their labor and experience. The center also offers a variety of labor-support options such as hydrotherapy, water birth, aromatherapy, nitrous oxide and transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) unit application.

"We're delighted that the Center for Midwifery has been chosen as an Edge Runner by the Academy," said CU College of Nursing Dean and Professor Elias Provencio-Vasquez, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAANP. "Throughout the years, the center has contributed to outstanding outcomes in all of the systems and hospitals affiliated with its innovative model."

Dean Provencio-Vasquez noted that the center's model has a favorable history of cesarean birth (11 to 13% compared to over 30% nationally) and episiotomy rates (less than 1%). He lauded the center's team of Certified Nurse-Midwives for their nationally recognized work in producing such an innovative model of care.

The model is part of an academic midwifery enterprise that started in 1977 to support the subsequent midwifery education program at CU College of Nursing. The enterprise now supports 39 nurse-midwives, four practices, two hospital systems, three hospitals, multiple ambulatory sites, and programs including group prenatal care, family medicine fellowship, student run clinic, a student-run obstetric department and community practice agreements.

“The Academy is proud to designate these unique and timely programs as Edge Runners. The diverse focus of these models highlights the wide range of services, vital support, and team-based approaches that the nursing profession provides,” said Academy President Kenneth White, PhD, AGACNP, ACHPN, FACHE, FAAN. “In particular, these models highlight nurses as leaders in innovation for improving care and equity in our health systems.”

All of the Academy’s Edge Runner profiles are available to view [here](#). The program leads for each of these innovative models of care will be honored at the [2022 Health Policy Conference](#), taking place October 27-29, 2022 in Washington, DC.

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#### **About the American Academy of Nursing**

The [American Academy of Nursing](#) serves the public by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. Academy Fellows are inducted into the organization for their extraordinary contributions to improve health locally and globally. With more than 2,900 Fellows, the Academy represents nursing’s most accomplished leaders in policy, research, administration, practice, and academia.

#### **About the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus**

The University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is a world-class medical destination at the forefront of transformative science, medicine, education and patient care. The campus encompasses the University of Colorado health professional schools, more than 60 centers and institutes, and two nationally ranked independent hospitals - [UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital](#) and [Children's Hospital Colorado](#) - that treat more than two million adult and pediatric patients each year. Innovative, interconnected and highly collaborative, the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus delivers life-changing treatments, patient care and professional training and conducts world-renowned research fueled by over \$650 million in research grants. For more information, visit [www.cuanschutz.edu](http://www.cuanschutz.edu).

#### **About CU Nursing’s Center for Midwifery**

The CU College of Nursing’s Center for Midwifery is a nurse-led model of care that focuses on comprehensive, person-centered, evidenced-based care. Established at the Anschutz Medical Campus, the center’s team of certified nurse midwives are dedicated to specific practice locations in Lone Tree, Lowry, Boulder and Longmont. Services include: annual gynecology exams, preconception counseling, family planning, prenatal care, labor and birth, postpartum care, and labor support.

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