



Laura A. Schmidt, DNP, FNP-BC  
Director, 2016-2017

Laura Schmidt is the Director of Nursing & Allied Health at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC). As an associate degree graduate, Dr. Schmidt started her career as a medical/surgical nurse on an orthopedic/neurosurgery unit at the Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After transferring and working in the emergency department, she decided to follow her dream of teaching. She accepted a staff development position at Methodist Hospital in South Philadelphia and also began teaching first aid and CPR for the American Red Cross. Upon relocating to Michigan, Dr. Schmidt became an adjunct nursing faculty member. Since a full time position was not available in education, she accepted a position as the Director of Acute Care Services at Traverse City Osteopathic Hospital overseeing nursing and non-nursing departments. When the hospital merged and prior to closure, she began her career as a full time educator at NMC. In addition to her NMC responsibilities, Dr. Schmidt is a practicing Nurse Practitioner at Grand Traverse Allergy and is certified through the American Nurses Credentialing Service.

Dr. Schmidt has been actively involved in promoting nursing and nursing education across Michigan. Her professional activities include: current member of the Board of Directors for OADN; President of the Michigan Council of Nursing Education Administrators; Co-Chair of the OADN Academic Progression in Nursing work group; member of the One Voice for Michigan Nursing committee; past member of the Michigan Action Coalition for the IOM/Future of Nursing; past advisory board member for the Michigan Center for Nursing; and past member for the Michigan Task Force of Nursing Practice. She worked with her nursing team to achieve initial accreditation for both the NMC ADN and practical nursing programs through the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and developed a simulation program and lab. In addition, she is a member of several professional organizations including American Nurses Association; ANA – Michigan; Michigan Organization of Nurse Executives; Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners; American Academy of Nurse Practitioners; National League for Nursing (NLN Ambassador); Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society (Northern Michigan University); and Delta Lambda Chapter of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International (Saint Louis University).

Dr. Schmidt has served on advisory councils/boards and currently serves on the Traverse Bay Area Health Occupations Advisory Board. She has presented at state conferences on various educational topics including, the use of joint appointments and implementation of consortium agreements for ADN to BSN partnerships. She was the recipient of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Teaching Excellence and League of Innovation John & Suanne Roueche Excellence awards. Dr. Schmidt completed her Associate and Bachelor Degrees at Gwynedd Mercy University outside Philadelphia; Master's degree at Northern Michigan University; Family Nurse Practitioner post Master's Certification at Grand Valley University; and her Doctor of Nursing Practice at Saint Louis University.