

MCU IN REVIEW: A LOOK BACK AT FALL 2024

Official Newsletter for the Midwives College of Utah Community



EST. 1980

MIDWIVES COLLEGE
OF UTAH

M I D W I F I N G M I D W I V E S

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**MIDWIVES COLLEGE
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MIDWIFING MIDWIVES

Reflecting on 2024 and Looking Forward

As we look back on 2024, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable journey we've shared. Our college has demonstrated extraordinary resilience during this period, standing strong through challenges and seizing new opportunities with determination and vision. This past year has been defined by our collective commitment to excellence and our proactive approach to leadership. Rather than merely responding to circumstances, we have anticipated change and actively shaped our future in midwifery education. This forward-thinking mindset has allowed us to not only weather uncertainties but to emerge stronger and more focused on our mission.

None of this would be possible without the exceptional dedication of our faculty and staff. Your unwavering commitment to our students and your willingness to innovate and adapt have been the bedrock of our success. You have consistently gone beyond expectations to ensure that our students receive the highest quality education and support, even in the face of evolving challenges.

To our remarkable student body: you continue to be our greatest source of inspiration. Your hard work, determination, and passion embody the very values that define our institution. The energy and perspective you bring to our campus community enrich our collective experience and drive us toward excellence. We are truly fortunate to work alongside such engaged and motivated individuals who contribute daily to the vibrancy of our college.

As we look toward the future, let us carry forward the valuable lessons of 2024. Together, we will continue to shape the landscape of midwifery education through collaboration, perseverance, and innovation. I am confident that by maintaining our commitment to these principles, MCU will achieve even greater heights in the years to come. Thank you for your continued dedication to our shared mission.

With gratitude and optimism,
Whitney Mesyef
President



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M I D W I F I N G M I D W I V E S

Dear MCU Community,

MCU places a high priority on adaptation and has a proven history of successfully managing distance learning and clinical placements. We are committed to providing accessible and flexible education while responsibly managing resources. In the face of rising costs and a nationwide downturn in student enrollment, we have decided to conduct all 2025 in-person gatherings virtually. This change allows us to control costs, maintain affordability, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our programs. It also supports our mission of accessibility, enabling us to allocate resources more efficiently to enhance your learning experience.

Beginning in Winter 2025, assessments previously available online and in-person will be exclusively online. The online assessment format is designed to maintain the same rigorous standards as the in-person option and allows you to effectively demonstrate your skills and knowledge while remaining accessible.

Some prefer the in-person assessment option and the deep connections you build with fellow students and staff. We are committed to returning to in-person gatherings and are here to support you during this transition.

We are thrilled to embrace the opportunity to host a virtual Graduation Gala. With our Gala Committee's extensive event planning experience, all of us will come together to celebrate our graduates and connect as an MCU community.

Thank you for your understanding and adaptability as we continue to advance as a community. Your success is our top priority; we are confident this update will support your learning journey. You play a pivotal role in MCU's forty-five-year journey of strategic evolution and adaptation. Together, we're shaping the future of midwifery—one step, and one milestone, at a time.

Warm regards,

**MCU's Board of Directors
MCU's Senior Leadership Team**

UPCOMING EVENTS

02.11 - 02.14

Service Week

04.22 - 04.24

Winter Assessments

05.05

International Day of the Midwife

08.18 - 08.20

Summer Assessments

Midwives of Excellence

Saying you want to develop Midwives of Excellence is one thing. Actually creating a community of excellence is something else entirely. These next few pages are just the tip of the iceberg. Our community is working in so many ways to shift the history of birth and save lives, one birth at a time.

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

Dr. Stefanie Podlog,

General Education Department Chair

The Fall 2024 term has been a busy time of 2024 with significant progress and teamwork across all academic departments. To support ongoing professional development, we successfully reestablished the 'Lunch and Learn', a monthly faculty training series. Further, we piloted a standardized classroom homepage and updated the syllabus template, setting a new standard for consistency and accessibility in our courses.

We also introduced the new 'Disability Justice for Midwives' course and saw several Phase III students enroll in Masters-level electives, alongside students completing the Independent Midwifery Studies and Advanced Studies (Teaching Assistant) electives.

A key milestone this fall was our presentation at the 'First Annual MEAC Conference', where we discussed the role of 'Generative Artificial Intelligence in Midwifery Education'. These achievements highlight the collaborative spirit and commitment to innovation, student success, and academic excellence shared across our team.





ANNUAL CAMPUS SECURITY REPORT

MASHA MESYEF, DIRECTOR OF COMPLIANCE

MCU prioritizes the safety and well-being of its students, employees and visitors whether that's online or in person. The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, commonly referred to as the Clery Act, requires higher education institutions to collect, report and disseminate crime data to the campus community and U.S. Department of Education; to provide timely warnings of reported crimes that represent a threat to the safety of students or employees; and to make public their campus security policies.

In compliance with this legislation, MCU's Title IX Coordinator, has gathered information on current crime statistics and other public safety related policies and information at MCU.

This [report](#) is accessible online by visiting [MCU's Consumer Information Page](#). If you have any questions about this report or would like a physical copy mailed to you, please do not hesitate to contact compliance@midwifery.edu.

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday has been established in recent years as an opportunity to take a break from the consumerism of the holiday season and focus on giving back to our communities. This year, our goal was to spread the word that MCU is training leaders to fill in the gaps left by maternity care deserts.

Since our founding, we've trained over 2,375 midwives. Midwives like MCU alumna, Amanda Counter:

"The upcoming closure of the labor and delivery unit at Evanston Regional Hospital in Evanston, Wyoming, highlights the growing crisis of maternity care deserts. Families in Uinta County will soon face drives of well over an hour for hospital-based maternity care.

As community midwives, our role has always been to offer choices, not limits. I care deeply about hospital closures because maternity care is not one-size-fits-all. Some people need an OB; some need a hospital. No one should be forced into birthing in a car, at home, or alone simply because they have no other options.

Although I'm located nearly 90 minutes from Evanston, I've reprioritized my travel radius and been accepted as a Wyoming Medicaid provider. I stand ready to serve families in Uinta County and beyond. This is what not abandoning rural families looks like. This is the heart of midwifery."

A sincere thanks to everyone who shared our video and made a gift to the Scholarship Fund this Giving Tuesday. Because of your efforts, we were able to raise over \$100 and spread awareness of the important work of midwives in our communities. This is how we save lives, one birth at a time. Thank you!

The United States is plagued with maternity care deserts



Scholarship Resources

Alongside offering the Briana Blackwelder Equal Opportunity Scholarship, MCU keeps an updated list of external scholarships that students might qualify for. This regularly refreshed list helps provide students with extra support throughout their educational journey. By connecting students with these opportunities, we aim to alleviate some of the financial burdens associated with training, enabling them to focus on their studies and become the skilled midwives our communities need. View the full list at:

www.midwifery.edu/scholarship-resources/

Clinical Handbook Updates

We're excited to share that the MCU Clinical Handbook has been updated! Be sure to check out the latest version for the most current policies and expectations for our clinical program—it's your go-to guide for success!

Also, the Preceptor Handbook has received a refresh! Our Preceptor Liaison will be sending out a copy to all currently approved preceptors and posting it to their Preceptor Information Page, but don't forget to give your preceptor a friendly reminder to review the updated handbook.

For easy access, both handbooks—along with all clinical forms and policies—can be found in the MCU Commons course under the Clinical Department Information module.

Licensure in Iowa

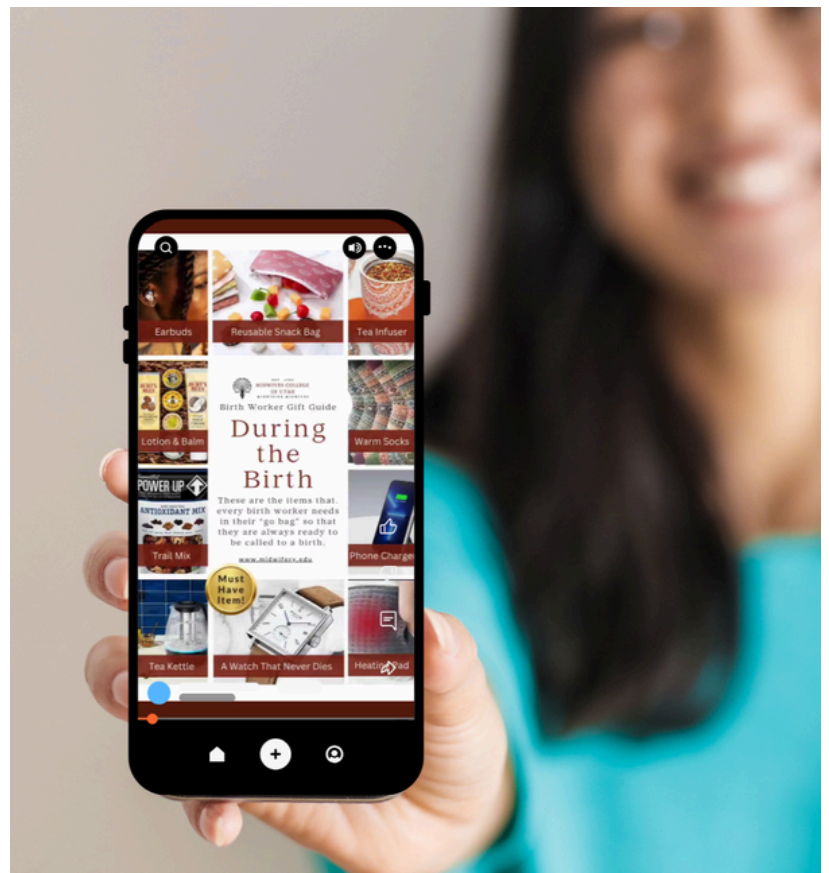
New midwives practicing in Iowa are now required to be licensed through the state pursuant to Iowa Code 148I.2

Prior to obtaining a license to practice midwifery, new midwives must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Be at least twenty-one years old.
2. Submit proof of a high school diploma or its equivalent.
3. Submit proof of a current national certification as a certified professional midwife from the North American registry of midwives or its successor organization.
4. Submit proof of completion of an educational program or pathway accredited by the midwifery education accreditation council.
5. Submit an application fee as prescribed by the board by rule.

All MCU students will meet requirements 2 through 4 and should be qualified for licensure after graduation.

You can read the full code at this site: <https://casetext.com/statute/code-of-iowa/title-iv-public-health/chapter-148i-midwifery/section-148i2-licensure-licensed-midwifery>



Birthworker Gift Guide

In December MCU released our first ever Gift Guide. This simple, three page gift guide gave over 30 gift ideas for the things that birthworkers need before, during, and after attending a birth. Gift ideas ranged from the practical - phone chargers - to the extravagant - an eye massager to help unwind after a birth. The affiliate links from this gift guide and the textbook list raised just over \$200 for the scholarship fund during the Fall trimester. We greatly appreciate everyone who utilized these links and helped to support our student midwives' hopes and dreams.



Join the New and Improved Student Council!


We are excited to announce the restructuring of Student Council to better serve our student body and campus community! This reimagined council is designed to foster leadership, innovation, and collaboration like never before. Whether you're passionate about advocating for student concerns, organizing events, or shaping the future of campus life, there's a place for you on this dynamic team.

By joining the Student Council, you will:

- Be part of an empowered group of student leaders
- Gain valuable leadership and project management skills
- Make a lasting impact on the student experience
- Take the first step toward shaping your legacy.

Apply today and let your voice be heard!

For more information on joining the student council contact us at studentcouncil@midwifery.edu



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

GAVIN BROWN, CAMPUS LIFE

Calling All Alumni – Be Part of Our New Alumni Association!

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our newly restructured Alumni Association! This initiative is designed to strengthen connections, celebrate achievements, and foster a vibrant network of past, present, and future alumni.

As a member of the Alumni Association, you will:

- Stay connected with MCU and fellow graduates
- Gain access to exclusive events, professional development opportunities, and resources
- Play a key role in mentoring current students and shaping the future of our institution

Your experience and story matter. Let's build a legacy together! Join the Alumni Association today and continue to make a difference long after graduation.

For more information on how to join join the Alumni Association contact us at CampusLife@midwifery.edu

STAFF & FACULTY

CHANGES AND UPDATES



As MCU continues to grow and evolve, so too does our Staff and Faculty. We are excited to share the latest updates on our team members and the significant transitions happening within our organization. The following page provides a glimpse into the dynamic shifts and new additions to our workforce that occurred between May 1st and August 31st, 2024.

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR
THE MOST RECENT INFO**



[ORG CHART](#)

[STAFF & FACULTY LISTING](#)

Fondest Farewells to...



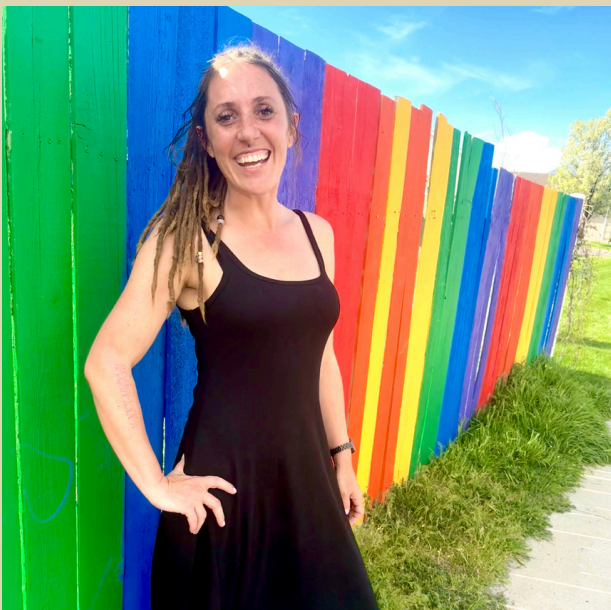
Susie Delaney
Clinical Department Co-Chair,
Assessment Specialist, Core Faculty



Tel Cunningfolk
Competencies Instructor

We are deeply grateful for the dedication and excellence that both Susie and Tel brought to their respective roles, and we wish them all the best as they pursue new opportunities. We are sad to see them go and acknowledge the big shoes they leave behind.

thank you!



Bryanna Hazelwood
Assessment Specialist
Clinical Competencies Instructor

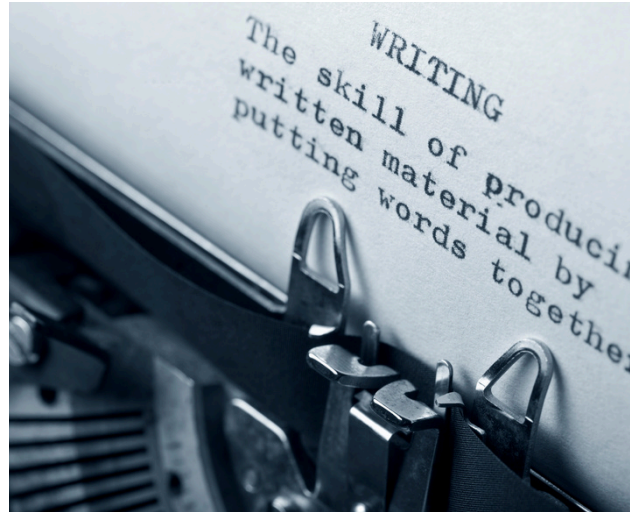
We are excited to introduce Bryanna Hazelwood as our new MCU Assessment Specialist and Clinical Competencies course instructor! Bryanna Hazelwood, CPM LDEM is Tooele Midwifery's owner and lead midwife. Bryanna completed her Bachelor in Midwifery studies at MCU in 2019 and passed her NARM exam in May 2020. She is a proud member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and a single mom of two strong-willed children who were born at home and bring her so much joy. In her free time, Bryanna enjoys reading, disc golfing, being outdoors and spending time with her loved ones.

welcome!

Warmest Welcome to...



Amanda Coles Khalid
Associate Registrar



Meredith Mance
Writing and Academic Tutor



Talia Ross
TA



Erin Davis
Transitioned to Director of Student Success and Advising



Angela Franklin
Transitioned to Division Dean of BIPOC Success & Intercultural Engagement



Cheryl Furer
Transitioned to Tea House Mentor

Fondest Farewells to...



Cassandra Aho
Adjunct Faculty



Tricia Carlisle
Adjunct Faculty



Jermain Cooper
VP of Student Success & Equity



Cindy Winward
Left her role as Registrar's Assistant; still with MCU as the Office Manager & Librarian

Each of these people has left a mark on the culture and spirit of MCU that will be felt for years to come. Whether they left to pursue career goals or make more time for their families, we support and encourage each person in their next steps. We sincerely hope that the future will find our paths crossing once again.

thank you!

Department Feature

House Mentors

The mission of the MCU house mentor program is to support the development of Midwives of Excellence by fostering a unique house culture of connection that promotes meaningful relationship connections and professional peer bonding; by providing each student continuity of care through progress monitoring systems and coaching; and committing to personal transformation with focused attention towards the values and models of The Outward Mindset, Crucial Conversations, and Crucial Accountability.



Members

Ruth-Ann Colby Martin

Erin Davis

Cheryl Furer

Jodie Palmer

Sadie Sigford

Sarah Swanson

Barbara Verneus



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MIDWIFING MIDWIVES

MCU provides an educational structure and an integrated learning environment for individuals to become midwives of technical expertise, professional excellence, and personal greatness—namely Midwives of Excellence

House Highlights

Our House Mentors work tirelessly to midwife the student midwives in their care. Sometimes this looks like helping a student make the difficult decision to press the pause button on their journey. Our favorite times, however, are when the House Mentors are able to walk beside a student midwife and help them achieve their goals. Here are some highlights of those moments from this past term.

Silvermoon House

Student passed Phase 3 assessment in August 2024 and got her final catches in Jan 2025... onto NARM!

Rose House

Student took a timeout and was planning to withdraw. The break recharged her and she is now staying at MCU and continuing her path towards midwifery!

Compassionate Warrior House

Student persisted through significant hurdles her first term and, after a timeout, came back stronger than ever!

Rose House

“It’s been such a difficult term but your support kept me going even when I wanted to throw in the towel.”

Silvermoon House

After difficulties finding and maintaining a preceptor through Phase 2, student is moving across the country to a supportive and busy birth center to complete Phase 3.

Erin Davis

Director of Student Success and Advising

Erin Davis has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Saint Augustine's University and a Masters of Education from North Carolina State University. Erin lived and planted roots in North Carolina for 12 years before moving back home to Virginia in 2019. While in North Carolina, Erin was a therapist, a counselor at a minimum-security prison, Director of Student Activities and her most impactful position as the Assistant Dean of Students. Because of the large impact made in such a small time, Erin was the recipient of SAU's 45 under 45 and the UNCF Outstanding Young Alumni.



**Fun Fact: I was in the game show
"You Bet Your Life" in 2023**

Why MCU? MCU has opened up my eyes to a new way of looking at higher education and being able to provide support for students without having to physically be available to the students. I love the small atmosphere among both students and staff.

Ruth Ann Colby Martin

Graduate House

Ruth Ann is an outdoor adventurer, mountaineer, marathoner, and licensed midwife with a small rural practice, as well as faculty and Graduate House Mentor for the Midwives College of Utah. She earned a BA in Experiential Education and MSM examining how the intersection of relationship and deep nature connection impact one's experience of well-being and belonging and how the use of appropriate ceremony can deepen that connection, especially around the childbearing years. Ruth Ann deeply values the process of learning through experiential methods and mentoring, the integration of skills and understanding through experience and reflection, and the building of human relationship through cooperative learning and growth. Ruth Ann has designed programming and mentored various venues and ages, including homeschoolers, for nearly thirty years. Ruth Ann has lived for 25+ years on a mountain preserve, raising three children on a homestead, homeschooling, heating with wood, growing gardens, harvesting wild foods, raising chickens, milk goats, bees, and often a pig.



Fun Fact: Ruth Ann spent a year living in the woods practicing earth-based skills before mentoring thousands of students in the arts of survival, awareness, and tracking.

I believe that women, birthing people, and families have choices in their childbirth experiences and I am dedicated to helping people gain access to their choices and facilitating their process in making informed decisions. Teaching and mentoring students in the arts and skills of midwifery is my commitment to the future of midwifery, woman, pregnant people, babies, families, and the human condition.

Cheryl Furer

Tea House

I hold a Bachelor of Science in Midwifery from the Midwives College of Utah and a Master of Arts in Resilient Leadership. My journey into natural health began at Whole Foods Market, sparking my interest in homeopathy and midwifery. I've served as Director of Student Services (2015–2021) and Interim Director of Student Success and Advising (2024) at the MCU, where I've also been adjunct faculty since 2014. Currently, I serve as President of the Board of Directors and as the Tea House Mentor. With a background in midwifery, homeopathy, and leadership, I take a holistic approach to care that honors birth as fundamental health care. Beyond attending births, I am an educator, mentor, and advocate, dedicated to making midwifery more accessible and respected. Through my leadership roles at the Midwives College of Utah, I am committed to shaping the future of the profession and empowering both midwives and the individuals they serve.



Fun Fact: I was a model in my early 20s. I did a few runway shows and had a swimsuit spread in a local magazine.

I am a midwife because I trust in the innate wisdom and physiology of the birthing person and their ability to make informed, healthy choices for themselves. I believe birth is a transformative experience that deserves respect, autonomy, and skilled support. Midwifery allows me to blend evidence-based care with intuition, education, and advocacy, ensuring that each person feels empowered in their journey. I am committed to reclaiming birth as the life changing event that it is and making midwifery a widely recognized and accessible option for all.

Jodie Palmer

Compassionate Warrior House

Jodie first came to MCU as a student in 1995. Midwifery is baked into her bones, so even when her path did not lead to a practice catching babies she has spent the last 29 years practicing her passion by midwifing midwives. Jodie is an Aries, which gives her permission to always be right. She is trying very hard to make friends with uncertainty and discomfort, but they keep demanding she stop being so controlling. She thinks random acts of kindness, curiosity, and belly laughs are super sexy. The contribution she most wishes to make to the world is to help people find connection within conflict. She hopes to be remembered as a leavener, an instrument of peace, a champion of beauty, a believer in the power of love, and that she walked with kindness.



Fun Fact: Jodie lives in a 4-generation house

I choose MCU because I believe one of the best ways to support positive change in midwifery is to start with students. There are fantastic midwifery programs available, graduating great midwives. However, MCU is trying to do something more than just graduate excellent midwives. MCU is developing midwives prepared to navigate interpersonal and community conflict in new ways. It's through doing conflict differently that we're able to create and support thriving, diverse birthworker communities, which ultimately decreases disparities and increases the quality of client care.

Sadie Sigford

Rose House

Sadie (she/her) is a practicing midwife who lives in northern Minnesota. She is also an EMT at her local hospital. In addition to her healthcare roles, Sadie co-owns a farm and thrives in the connection between growing, health, and the cycle of living. Sadie prioritizes community and strives to make a positive impact.



Fun Fact: Lake Superior has the longest shoreline of all the Great Lakes, measuring about 2,726 miles when including its islands and bays.

I was called to midwifery because I believe that individualized care, informed choices, and shared decision making are essential components and great advantages of midwifery care. At MCU I am so impressed with the depth of education, the space given to support the student experience, and the community created here. I wish I had attended MCU as a student midwife!

Sarah Swanson

Silvermoon House

I am a recent alum of MCU and a licensed midwife practicing in California. Currently, I work at a local freestanding birth center and run my independent practice, Truly Midwifery. I had the joy of raising and home-educating three incredible individuals who are now thriving adults. My passion lies in blending the art and science of midwifery into a cohesive, evidence-based approach for those I serve. I am dedicated to lifelong learning and continually seek opportunities to enhance my skills; I recently attended a Breech Workshop and feel grateful to be prepared for any surprises that may arise. I strive for personal greatness by fostering meaningful, holistic relationships with my clients, colleagues, and the students I support.



Fun Fact: I love water: lakes, the ocean, rivers, rain (especially in the summer or fireside with a hot cup of coffee), pools, hot tubs, ponds, creeks, cold plunges, steam rooms, or saunas. I love water but have difficulty staying hydrated (oops).

Not only am I grateful to be a midwife, I am a huge advocate for more midwives. Midwives are positioned in the community to have a significant impact on families and the future. The maternal mortality rate has only increased and we know midwives make a difference in reducing this stat. Midwives College of Utah was attractive to me because of its commitment to providing an accessible, affordable, and flexible MEAC-accredited education for me to pursue the path of midwifery. I value MCU with its flexible hybrid-learning program supported by Federal Student Financial Aid as an option for getting MORE MIDWIVES into communities across the nation and around the globe.

Barbara Verneus

Good Earth House

Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Barbara Verneus is a first-generation Indigenous Haitian American who comes from a line of ancestral midwives from her maternal side. In 2003, she became a doula serving mothers in New York City. In 2006, she traveled to Senegal, West Africa to volunteer with the African Birth Collective, and decided then to become a midwife. Since then, Barbara has trained in several states (NY, MA, PA, TX, and NJ).

She has served as an advisor to teenage mothers at PathWays PA, an organization that helps women, teens, children, and families achieve economic independence and family well-being. In pursuit of her Graduate Certificate in Maternal and Child Health from Boston University, Barbara conducted workshops in the Boston area on women's, reproductive, infant, and adolescent health. She has led workshops, across the country, on

topics such as racism, motherhood, mental wellness; breastfeeding, and the history of Black midwives within radical birth work. She has also been featured on several social media platforms. To date, she has attended over 300 births since starting her journey in birth work.

Barbara desires to provide intentional comprehensive therapeutic continuity of care to families in urban communities and overseas that allows families to feel empowered, honored, and safe. She strongly believes that one's sovereignty is their birthright to birth right. She hopes that her practice will seek to help in the movement of birth equity and sustainability for the midwives and the families they serve to purposefully thrive and not just exist



Fun Fact: Dancing is my therapeutic outlet.


I would better ask why midwifery chose me, for I definitely didn't choose it. As I said before in my bio, it is in my bloodline.

Midwives of Technical Expertise


Our community is actively engaged in transformative practices that challenge the status quo in pregnancy care. We are committed to enhancing the skills and knowledge of midwives, ensuring they are equipped to provide the highest standard of care. Take a look at some of the ways we are doing this at MCU and for the wider community.

Stefanie Podlog, Faculty Chair, posted an article this fall on the roles of midwives in epidemiology. In this article, she dives into the critical role midwives can play in epidemiology by "collecting and analyzing data, monitoring disease outbreaks, identifying high-risk individual clients and populations, conducting research, and advocating for public health." Dr Podlog also highlights some of the ways midwives are already being utilized around the world and proposes reasons why midwives are uniquely positioned for this task.

You can read the full article on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/roles-midwives-epidemiology-stefanie-podlog-phd-cd-dona-sbd-cchw-2g50e/?trackingId=AhW9h1FbT3yul9swNht6Q%3D%3D>



Midwives College of Utah



Risk Identification

PH Advocacy

Monitoring & Surveillance

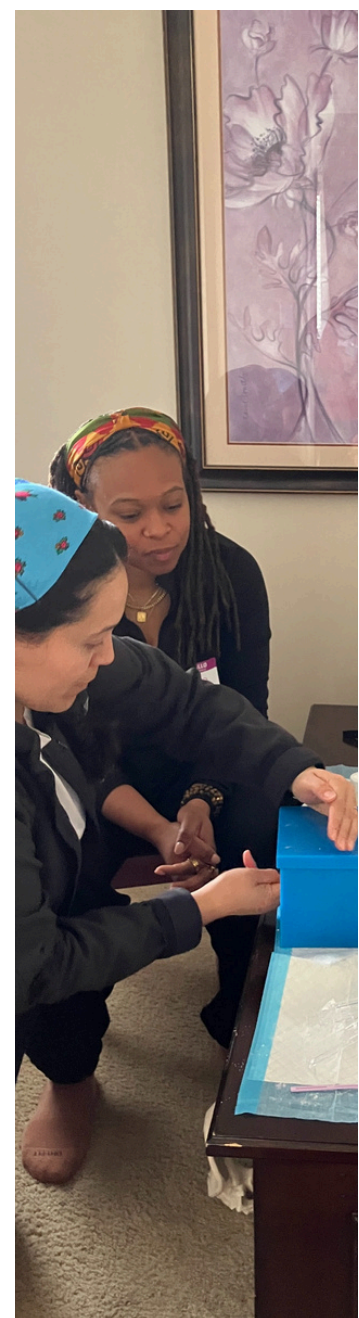
Conducting Research

Data Collection & Analysis

NEW ARTICLE

Roles of Midwives in Epidemiology

Stefanie Podlog PhD, CD(DONA), SBD, CCHW
Department Chair, Faculty Member & Doula



FALL ASSESSMENTS

A TIME TO BUILD CONFIDENCE & COMMUNITY

Monday, December 16 through Wednesday, December 18th, 24 students gathered in Salt Lake City, Utah to take their assessments and prepare to move into the next phase of their midwifery journey. We had students from all three phases join us for the opportunity to demonstrate the hands-on skills they have been developing. With real-time feedback and encouragement, students left with a boost of confidence and renewed sense of commitment to becoming midwives of technical expertise. We're so grateful to everyone who made the time to join us last month. We are excited by the challenge of making virtual assessments just as engaging, challenging, and encouraging while we take this brief hiatus during 2025.

Midwives of Professional Excellence

The MCU community is a dynamic network of individuals who are passionate about transforming the landscape of pregnancy care. They are innovating practices, advocating for better health policies, and providing compassionate care that places the needs of birthing people and infants at the forefront. They are not just midwives; they are leaders in their field, shaping the future of birth practices and improving outcomes for families. These next pages celebrate the achievements of our community.

On December 12th MCU Alum, Amariee Collins, and faculty/ house mentor, Barbara Verneus, were members of an online panel for a meaningful discussion about being a traveling midwife within the US and abroad. Through this event, these midwives worked to shine light on the limited midwifery care and how we can advocate for better access and support families.

THE TRAVELING MIDWIFE & MIDWIFERY CARE DESERTS

12.12 | THURSDAY | 7PM EST



BARBARA VERNEUS

Traditional Midwife
Master Level
Counselor
College Professor
@tinyandbrave



AMARIEE COLLINS

Licensed CPM, MPA,
BS, BSM, RDMS-Ab,
OB/GYN, RVT
@radicle_births



KRISTINE MARIE LAURIA

Humanitarian Midwife
Global
Midwifery Director
Breech Without
Borders
@globalmidwife@64

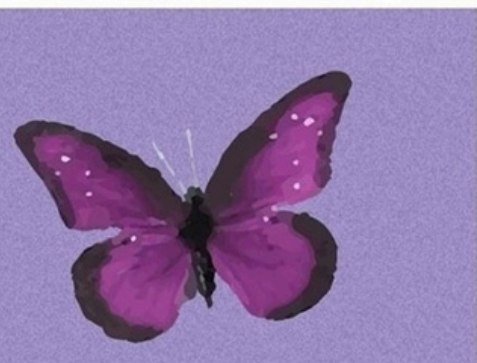


Stefanie Podlog, Faculty Chair, and Megan Koontz, Dean, were invited to present at the Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC) annual conference. On November 14th, they presented their session titled, “Generative Artificial Intelligence Technology and Midwifery Education”.



Hello,
Thank you for your application to the National Association to Advance Black Birth (NAABB) 2024 Black Midwifery Scholarship. We have so much gratitude for each application that was submitted. It's clear that there is an amazing lineup of Black midwives who are equally passionate, dedicated, and committed to improving health equity and birth outcomes in our communities!

On behalf of NAABB, we are excited to share that you have been named a 2024 Black Midwifery Scholarship Recipient, congratulations!



Phase One student, Chastity Mays, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the National Association to Advance Black Birth (NAABB). This is a very competitive scholarship, and we are so impressed with Chastity for receiving this national recognition for her dedication to improving health equity and birth outcomes in America. Keep shining forth and excelling in all that you do!

IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE

GRADUATES



In the Fall 2024 term we saw so many amazing student midwives graduate and move into the next phase of their journey. Each of these midwives has made incredible sacrifices and given their all towards reaching their dream of becoming a Certified Professional Midwife.

In total, we had 14 students graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Midwifery this fall. One graduate was a midwife who returned to school for our CPM to BSM program. The other thirteen new midwives each successfully passed the NARM on their first attempt. We are so excited to highlight each of these midwives and look forward to seeing the impact they have in their communities as Midwives of Excellence.



Bachelor of Science in Midwifery

**Diana
Hopkins**

**Missouri
Sept 2024**



Bachelor of Science in Midwifery

**Jamie
Davison-
Ortiz**

New Jersey
Sept 2024



Bachelor of Science in Midwifery

**Ann
Von
Mortiz**

Washington
Sept 2024



Bachelor of Science in Midwifery

Hayley Haralson

Arizona
Sept 2024



Bachelor of Science in Midwifery

**Marley
Walters**

**Washington
Sept 2024**



Bachelor of Science in Midwifery

**Meagan
Flaherty**

Virginia
Oct 2024



Bachelor of Science in Midwifery

**Kalli
Chason**

Utah
Oct 2024



CPM to Bachelor of Science in Midwifery

**Jaime
Richardson**

**Illinois
Oct 2024**



Bachelor of Science in Midwifery

**Coleen
Salazar**

**California
Oct 2024**



Bachelor of Science in Midwifery

**Michaela
Baldwin**

**Illinois
Missouri
Oct 2024**



Bachelor of Science in Midwifery

Madison Edwards

Kentucky
Nov 2024



Bachelor of Science in Midwifery

SciHonor Devotion

Connecticut
Dec 2024

Midwives of Personal Greatness

We are dedicated to midwifing midwives. In the true spirit of midwifery care, we believe this means caring for the whole individual and encouraging growth and development in all areas of life. So while we want to recognize and celebrate professional achievements, we also hold space for moments of personal growth, success, and rest.



We had such an amazing time at our community gathering this December. Students shared the trials and joys of student midwife life as they dined on delicious food provided by faculty and staff members. We are grateful to everyone who helped to make this event possible. Although this is our last formal, in-person gathering for a period of time, we are committed to finding fun and inventive ways of continuing to spend time together.



This past Fall I've had the lovely opportunity to train our new Director of Student Services and Advising, Erin Davis. This was a busy time and filled with lots of laughter and inspiration.

After the term ended, my family came to town, and we had a great time being tourists in our state. We went skiing, hiking, explored caves, and to the hot springs! I couldn't have asked for a better ending to a very full and fulfilling year!

Cheryl Furer (House Mentor)

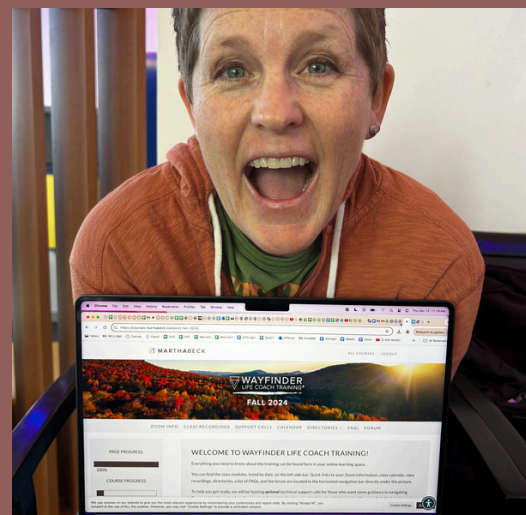


I started running this summer and completed a half-Marathon on my birthday in November. It felt like quite the accomplishment considering I could not run a mile in May. I had to continually remind myself - I can do hard things!

Melady Elifritz (Faculty, Writing Lab)

I finally made the leap toward something that's been calling me for decades. I'm becoming a certified life coach! If you'd like to try working with a coach now's a fantastic win-win opportunity--discount coaching for you, coaching experience for me. If you're interested in trying it out send me an email at jodiepalmercoaching@gmail.com. Let's walk toward what's calling together!

Jody Palmer (Faculty, House Mentor)



MOMENTS OF PERSONAL GREATNESS

Faculty & Staff

Annual Goal: \$12,000+

Briana Blackwelder Equal Access Scholarship Fund



Providing tuition relief for midwives serving medically underserved communities

YOU can play a role in developing
Midwives of Excellence.

YOU can save lives one birth at a time.

YOU can make a difference.

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY AT
midwifery.edu/donate

MCU IN REVIEW IS FOR YOU!

Share your stories, your updates, and your ideas with marketing@midwifery.edu to include in the next edition of our newsletter. The newsletter is designed to inform and inspire our community. Are you a seasoned student or recent grad with thoughts about your experiences? Are you working on a project, internship, or speaking engagement we can pat you on the back for? MCU is interested in what's going on with you. Send your updates to marketing@midwifery.edu or use this form:

<https://forms.gle/mpN1iF3ySes7qmLu9>



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