

Tina M. Decker, DNP, RN, CNE

EDUCATION

Doctor of Nursing Practice— Governors State University, University Park, IL 2016

Focus: Leadership and Management; GPA 4.0/4.0

Project: Medication Math: More than Calculations

Master of Science in Nursing— Governors State University, University Park, IL · 2010

Focus: Clinical Nurse Specialist; GPA 4.0/4.0

Bachelor of Science in Nursing — Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL · 2006

Minor: Science; Other: Women's soccer NCCAA national champion 2005; NCCAA All-American

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching Experience

Clinical Associate Professor of Nursing, Loyola University Chicago: 2026-present

Professor Emerita, Trinity Christian College: 2026-present

Professor of Nursing, Trinity Christian College: 2023–2026

Associate Professor of Nursing, Trinity Christian College: 2018–2023, Tenured 2018

Assistant Professor of Nursing, Trinity Christian College:: 2010–2018

Leadership Experience

Department of Nursing Chair, Trinity Christian College:: 2014–2026

Nursing Lab Coordinator, Trinity Christian College:: 2013–2014

- Designed and implemented simulation-based learning throughout entire nursing curriculum
- Managed simulation equipment (SimMan3G, SimMom, SimNewB)
- Trained faculty and supervised student lab workers

Clinical Experience

Registered Nurse, Francis Medical Center/ MetroSouth Medical Center, Blue Island, IL, 2006-2016

- Staff RN/ Charge RN: Labor and Delivery, Maternal/Newborn Level II with exception unit
- Prepared Childbirth Educator: 2010-2016

Registered Nurse, Riverside Medical Center, Kankakee, IL, 2007-2009

- Staff RN on Labor and Delivery unit

LICENSURE & CERTIFICATIONS

- Illinois RN License #041354045
- Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) #625453
- CPR – AHA BLS Provider #255412358096 (valid through 08/2028)

GRANTS AWARDED

Research Grants

Internal

Use of the StrengthsFinder Assessment in new student orientation Collaborative Initiative Grant, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. (2025).

Principle investigator: Michael Dieter

Co-investigators: **T. Decker**, T. Hendrickson, H. Wasco. 25% effort.

Interdisciplinary simulation, Collaborative Initiative Grant, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. (2022, 2023, 2024).

Principle Investigator: T. Decker

Co- investigators: W. Boerman-Cornell, C. Bretzlaff-Holstein, L. Doot-Abioja, M. Dieter, D. Majewski

Effort varied for specific projects (different conferences, draft of publication).

Using behavior skills training to support skill acquisition of undergraduate nursing students. Summer Research Grant, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL (2023).

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Principle investigator: Karen O'Connor

Co-investigators: **T. Decker**, S. Baillie-Gorman, S. Gouwens, C. Carlson. Effort 30%.

Program Grants

External

Illinois Board of Higher Education Nursing Program Improvement Grant (2018).

\$32,000, 100% Effort.

Program Director: Tina Decker, Trinity Christian College

Other Grants

External- Community Project

OER cultivating academic resources to equip students. Illinois State Library OER Grant. (2024-2026)

\$108,680 for funding of 4 projects at Trinity Christian College.

Project Director: Kyle McCarrell, Trinity Christian College

Project 4 team member: **T. Decker**, E. Pacholski Effort 80%.

Internal/ Special Project

Research courses at Trinity. Collaborative Initiative Grant , Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. (2002)

Project lead: A. Tan

Team members: B. Dewitt, **T. Decker**, D. Hassert, K. McCarrell, K. Schmitt. Effort 16%.

Strengthening the undergraduate learning assistant (ULA) seminar. Collaborative Initiative Grant , Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL.(2018).

Project lead: J. Fry

Team members: B. Boerman-Cornell, **T. Decker**, Y. Lee, A. Reppman, Effort 20%.

Experiential learning. Collaborative Initiative Grant , Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. (2017).

Project lead: M. VanderWeele

Team members: B. Boerman-Cornell, **T. Decker**, K. Mullen, S. Robbert, K. Stefo, M. VanderWeele, L. White & D. Windes. Effort 11%

Unfunded

HRSA-25-076- Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students. (2025). \$400,000. No grants were funded this cycle.

Project lead: **T. Decker** Effort 90%.

Trinity Christian College Department of Nursing Equipment Grant Washington Square Health Foundation. (2025). \$23,000 request.

Project lead: **T. Decker** Effort 100%.

PUBLICATIONS

Data-based publication in refereed journal

- (currently under review with *Behavior Analysis in Practice*.) Perez, B., Clay, C., O'Connor, K., **Decker, T.**, Gouwens, S., Carlson, C., & Baillie, S. An evaluation of behavioral skills training to teach clinical skills for nursing students.

Non-data based publications in refereed journals

- Van Lonkhuyzen, C., **Decker, T.**, & Carlson, C. (2023). The Christian nurses's role in antibiotic stewardship. *Journal of Christian Nursing*, 40(2). <https://doi.org/10.1097/cnj.0000000000001058>
- Klanderman, D., Carlson, C., **Decker, T.**, Haan, F., Normal, V., Schrottenboer, A., Schuuman, D., & Turner, J. (2023). Faith integration in STEM courses for undergraduates: Exemplars of pedagogical practices. *International Journal of Christianity and Education*, 27(3). <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/20569971221136551>.

Books

- **Decker, T.**, & Pacholski, E. *Wellness for Helping Professions*. CC-BY 4.0. <https://commons.libretexts.org/book/med-99518>

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Other- refereed blog

- **Decker, T., & Gouwens, S.** (2023, July 25). Interdisciplinary research as sharing of gifts, Part 2. *Christ-Animated Learning Blog*. Site: <https://christianscholars.com/interdisciplinary-research-as-a-sharing-of-gifts-part-3/>.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED ADDRESSES

Refereed Data-based Presentation

- **Decker, T. & Wasco, H.** (November 2025). *H. Strong Foundation? Using StrengthsFinder in new student orientation*. (Presentation). Associated Colleges of the Chicago Area 2025 Pedagogy Symposium. Oakbrook, IL, November, 2025.
- **Decker, T., Bretzlaff-Holstein, C., Boerman-Cornell, W., Doot-Abinoja, L., and Majewski, D.** (May, 2024). *Ethical interdisciplinary simulation as a means to foster confidence and professional competence*. (Presentation). International Christian Community for Teacher Education Conference. Gordon College, Wenham, MA.
- O'Connor, K., **Decker, T., Baillie-Gorman S., Gouwens, S., Carlson, C.** (November, 2023). *Evidence-based teaching across the disciplines in a college setting*. Critical Questions in Education Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Doot-Abinoja, L., C. Bretzlaff-Holstein, W. Boerman-Cornell, L, **T. Decker,** and M. Dieter. (October, 2023). *Interdisciplinary simulation-based learning experiences for increasing student competencies*. (Presentation). Council on Social Work Education Conference. Atlanta, GA. October, 2023.
- Boerman-Cornell, W., Bretzlaff-Holstein, C., **Decker, T.,** Doot-Abinoja, L., Dieter, M. (May, 2022). *STAT: The effect of an interdisciplinary simulation training and teamwork day on college students in education, social work, nursing, and counseling*. Conference co-presentation, referred. International Christian Community for Teacher Education Conference. Newburg, OR.

Non-data-based presentation

- *Faith integration and STEM courses for undergraduates: Exemplars of pedagogical practices*. (October, 2023). Invited address. Kuyper Institute for Christian Teaching and Learning. Calvin University Grand Rapids, MI.
- **Decker, T., Hulford, E., & Foll, A.** (March, 2021). *Back to the future: A feminist revision of the history of medicine and Christianity*. Moderated panel presentation, refereed. Conference on Medicine and Religion, Columbus, OH.

Posters (Data-based)

- **Decker, T.** (March 2020). *Medication math: More than calculations*. Abstract accepted for refereed poster presentation- conference cancelled. Ruth K. Palmer Symposium, Maywood, IL. March, 2020.
- **Decker, T.** (August, 2012). *Student Perceptions of Learning Outcomes in the Simulation Setting*. Refereed poster presentation, Nuts & Bolts for Nurse Educators, Minneapolis, MN.

Invited research or clinical presentation

- **Decker, T.** (June, 2024). *Strategies for educating the next generation of nurses*. Invited address. Loyola University Medical Center. Maywood, IL.
- **Decker, T.** (June, 2024). *2024 Illinois nurse educator fellows virtual recognition ceremony*. Illinois Board of Higher Education & Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.
- **Decker, T.** (May, 2024). *Strategies for educating the next generation of nurses*. Invited address. Illinois Administrative Perinatal Centers Symposium. Utica, IL.
- **Decker, T., Carlson, C.** (January, 2015). *Ebola- Get the Facts*. Invited panel discussion. Palos Heights Public Library.
- **Decker, T.** (2010). *Gestational Diabetes*. Invited staff education. Women's Care Unit, MetroSouth Medical Center.
- **Decker, T.** (2009). *Preeclampsia/Eclampsia in the Postpartum Patient*. Invited staff education, Intensive Care Unit, St. James Hospital Olympia Fields.

Moderated sessions

- **Decker, T.** (May, 2015). *Special Challenges of the Large Department*. Moderated session at The Council of Independent Colleges Workshop for Department Chairs.

Interviews

- *The Face of Nursing*. American Association of Colleges of Nursing. May, 2025.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=VeoWjx-cfis>.

Community

- *Using StrengthsFinder in new student orientation*. Faculty coffee presentation. Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. February, 2026.
- *Teaching Generation Z (Nursing) Students: And Other Sabbatical Findings*. Faculty coffee presentation. Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. September, 2024
- *Student Success*. Panel participant, Thrive Freshman Orientation. Trinity Christian College. Palos Heights, IL, (2024, August). Palos Heights, IL, August, 2024.
- *Applying for sabbaticals and summer grants*. Faculty workshop co-presenter. Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. May, 2023 & 2024.
- *Listening well*. Chapel meditation. Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. February, 2023.
- *Simulation training & teamwork: An interdisciplinary experience*. Faculty coffee co-presentation. Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. February, 2022.
- *Training nurses for the fight against antibiotic resistant microbes*. Faculty coffee co-presentation. Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. October, 2021.
- *Use of respondus browser lockdown and respondus monitor*. Virtual faculty development presentation. Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. October, 2020.
- *Feminar*. Panel participation. Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. April, 2019
- *The image of nursing*. Tenure lecture at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. March, 2019.
- *To follow or unfollow*. Chapel meditation at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. March, 2019.
- *Strengthening the undergraduate learning assistant (ULA) seminar*. Faculty coffee presentation at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. September, 2018.
- *Being human in my discipline: faculty panel*. Panel presentation at Faculty Institute and Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. August, 2018.
- *Experiential learning: Collaborative initiative grant report findings*. Faculty coffee presentation at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. February, 2018.
- *Feminar*. Panel participation at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. January, 2018.
- *Medication math: More than calculations*. Faculty coffee presentation at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL. September, 2017.
- *Scholarship strategies at Trinity*. Panel participation at New Faculty Formation, Trinity Christian College. August, 2017.
- *Test-writing NCLEX style questions*. Presented at Fall Nursing Faculty Institute, Trinity Christian College. August, 2016.
- *Caring for our vocation*. Panel participation at Fall Faculty Retreat, Trinity Christian College, August 2015.
- *Ebola-Get the facts*. Panel discussion. Trinity Christian College, 2014.
- *Lunch and learn: Tales of a nurse*. Presentation at Crete Monee High School, 2013.
- *Where do we begin? Preparing for a hospital welcome*. Breakout session at Fall Faculty Retreat, Trinity Christian College. August, 2012
- *Exploring student evaluations of alternative learning experiences*. Faculty coffee, Trinity Christian College, April, 2012.

AWARDS & HONORS

- Name Professor of the Year by Trinity Christian College, 2025/26
- Selected to serve on American Association of Colleges of Nursing Government Affairs Committee. 2022-2026
- Illinois Nurse Educator Fellow, Illinois Board of Higher Education – 2024
- 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leaders. American Nurse Association, Illinois – 2022
- Doctoral Nursing Program Outstanding Student of the Year. Governors State University– 2016–2017

TEACHING/ADVISING

Courses Taught:

Courses Taught at LUC	Semester	Class Size
GNURS 360 Nursing Research	Fall 2026	39/38
At other institutions:		

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NURS 425 Leadership & Issues in Nursing	Spring 2026 Spring 2025 Spring 2024 Spring 2023 Spring 2022 Spring 2021 Spring 2020 Spring 2019	17 12 19 22 32 14 26 39
NURS 222 Wellness for Helping Professions	Fall 2026 Fall 2021 Fall 2020 Fall 2019 Fall 2018 Fall 2017 Fall 2015	13 13 6 8 15 16 23/7
NURS 312 Pathophysiology	Fall 2022	26
NURS 308 Health Assessment and Promotion (theory and lab)	Spring 2018 Spring 2017 Spring 2016 Spring 2015 Fall 2013 Fall 2012 Fall 2011 Fall 2010	30-40 30-40 32 54 51 40 57 56
NURS 316 Nursing Care of Childbearing Families (theory and clinical)	Spring 2014 Spring 2013 Spring 2012 Spring 2011	39 40 41 50
NURS 402 Nursing Research	Spring 2011	41
NURS 309 Therapeutic Interventions (lab)	Fall 2010	8
Foundation Courses		
FDN 111 Thrive for Transfer Students	Fall 2026 Fall 2025	22 25
FDN 101 Thrive for First Time Students	Fall 2021	16
Interdisciplinary learning: Coronavirus and Chicagoland Summer 2020	Summer 2020	Not available
Interim: Behind the Scenes of Nursing Simulation	Winter 2015	11
ULA 399 Undergraduate Learning Assistant Seminar	Fall 2026 Spring 2018 Spring 2016 Spring 2015	4 3 5 3
Annual Lectures		
SWK: Leadership Course Topic: Ethical dilemmas and interdisciplinary collaboration	Spring 2017- 2026	Not available
NURS 310: Pharmacology;	Fall 2014- Fall 2026	Not available

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Topic: Safe Medication Calculation and Administration		
Advising		
Undergraduate, Nursing major	2025/2026	32
	2024/25	24
	2023/24	26
	2022/23	34
	2021/22	31
	2020/21	33
	2019/20	30
	2018/19	30
	2017/18	31
	2016/17	33
	2015/16	67
	2014/15	52
	2013/14	32
	2012/13	21
	2011/12	13
	2010/11	7
Non-Classroom Teaching		
Wedster, J. <i>A mindfulness-based mobile applications' impact on nurse burnout syndrome and well-being.</i> Regis College. 2025. Member of DNP doctoral committee.		
Guzman, Y. <i>Nursing student's knowledge and understanding of the social determinants of health.</i> Regis College 2025. Member of DNP doctoral committee.		
Trogia, V. <i>Effect of implementation of an evidenced-based geriatric hip fracture surgical pathway and reducing admission order to surgical intervention and length of stay.</i> Aspen University. 2022. Member of DNP doctoral committee.		

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Professional

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Government Affairs Committee – 2022–2026
- AACN Illinois Grassroots Liaison – 2020 - 2025
- Illinois Association of Colleges of Nursing- Member 2012-2026
Government Affairs Committee, 2017-2026
Vice Chair, 2018–2021
- National League for Nurses – Member, 2024–Present
- International Christian Community for Teacher Education – Member, 2022–2026
- Illinois Coalition of Nursing Organization: 2021-2023

Trinity Christian College Committee Work

- Executive (elected): Vice Chair, 2024-2026
- Faculty Development: 2013-14, 2015-16, 2021-2026
- Assessment and Program Review: 2013-17, 2023-24
- Economic Benefits: 2013-17, 2023-24
- Personnel (elected): 2017-21; Chair 2019-21
- Covid-19 Impact Planning Group: 2020
- Higher Learning Commission Advisory: 2018-20, 2025
- Planning for Conference on End-of-Life Care: 2017-18
- Student Athlete: 2012-14
- Retention: 2011-13, 2021-22
- Health Center Advisory: 2010-12
- Search and Hiring: Nursing Faculty 2014-25; Director of Business 2016; Director of Social Work 2014

Community

- Hope Church, Oak Forest, IL. Youth group leader. 2021-present
- Manteno Youth Soccer Association. Volunteer soccer coach. 2007-2019.