

TWU Distinguished Alumni – Where are they now?



Dr. Carolyn A. Williams, RN, PHD, FAAN1961, B. S. Nursing

Dr. Carolyn A. Williams is Professor and Dean Emeritus at the College of Nursing at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky. She became Dean of the College in 1984 and served in that role until August of 2006.

After receiving her **TWU** degree, Dr. Williams went on to earn an MS in Public Health Nursing and a PHD in Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. When selected as a **TWU** Distinguished Alumna in 1983, she was already widely recognized for her active involvement in education, research, and practice activities and in consultation. She had many publications in nursing, primary care, and public health, and had served on numerous boards and in advisory capacities. Since that recognition, Dr. Williams has continued to work to impact her profession and its future.

Dr. Williams shared with **TWU Alumni Connection** some of the highlights of her career in the past decade which she feels have impacted Nursing in significant ways. While Dean at the University of Kentucky School of Nursing she led a faculty group in the conceptualization, development and launching in 2001 of the first Doctor of Nursing Practice Program (DNP) in the country. Now, nearly all of the leading schools of nursing with graduate programs across the nation, including **TWU** offer the program.

In addition, she values having served as co-chair of an effort to develop and launch a post-baccalaureate residency program for new baccalaureate nursing graduates. This program which features partnerships between schools of nursing and university hospitals, is known as the University Health System Consortium/American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Post-Baccalaureate Residency Program. This program has now expanded from the initial six partnerships to include other universities and hospitals and has begun to influence thinking and policy in this country regarding what needs to be done to insure robust and effective practicing nurses. An accreditation process has been put in place for the program.

In 2007-2008 this **TWU** alumna had the honor of being appointed the Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence at the Institute of Medicine of the American Academies in Washington, D. C.