

# Project BEYOND-2

## Newsletter Fall 2019

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"We need to help students and parents cherish and preserve the ethnic and cultural diversity that nourishes and strengthens this community—and this nation."

- Cesar Chavez

Happy holiday season from the Project BEYOND-2 (PB-2) staff and students. We have reached a **100-member** benchmark this semester and are proud to be helping so many students from diverse backgrounds succeed in their pursuit of a BSN education! Please read on for this semester's highlights!

### Pre-Admission Intensive (PAI) August 2019

PAI is a week long program for incoming freshmen to enhance college readiness. Over twenty freshman students participated in PAI this year – our largest turn out to date! Students participated in seminars to prepare them for college life, interacted with current nursing faculty and had the opportunity to stay in the dorms and tour campus. This five-day retreat, our longest yet, brought students and PB-2 staff closer together and contributed to building a successful 2019-2020 community!

### Project BEYOND-2 Team:

Leona VandeVusse, PhD, RN,  
CNM, FACNM  
Project Director

Terrie Garcia, PhD, RN  
Project Coordinator

Amber Johnson, BSN, RN  
Mentor/Advisor Specialist

Jennifer Dahlman, PhD, RN  
Mentor/Advisor Specialist



### Homecoming 2019 Bed Races!

As semester traditions continue, PB-2 students participated in the bed races for Homecoming 2019! Our team of five PB-2 students raced down 12<sup>th</sup> Street in an effort to finish in the top three! In addition, teams are awarded prizes for their creative costumes. Our Sesame Street Scholars did not place this year, however we had a great deal of fun cheering them on! Great job to Beyonce King, Brenda Valadez-Servin, Elsa Sanchez, Sydney Chambliss and Cheryl Amankwah.



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# PB-2 Student Highlights

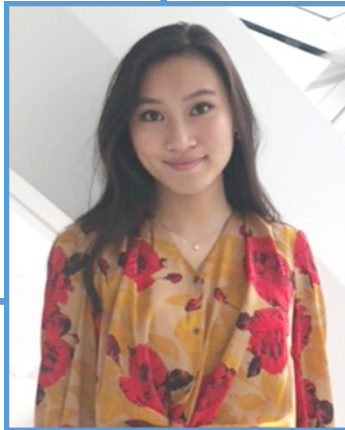
I selected to be part of the VANAP program because I knew I wanted to focus on adult centered care and I felt this gave me the opportunity to further develop my skills. Being part of PB2 encouraged me to seek out opportunities like the VANAP program by fostering curiosity and confidence in myself to apply for programs like these at Marquette.

- **Catherine Andrade (Class of 2020)**



“With my Dad being a veteran, I am blessed to be selected in a program that will help improve the level of care for those who have served. PB-2 has provided me with the tools and skills to confidently seek out opportunities similar to VANAP.”

- **Renata Lim (Class of 2022)**



“What attracted me most to VANAP was the opportunity to give back to the veteran. The nurses and other health care professionals demonstrate how to provide exceptional quality care for this patient population and are amazing role models for Marquette’s nursing students.”

- **Makena Walsh (Class of 2021)**



“Deciding to be part of VANAP is a great opportunity to branch out directly in the MKE community and make meaningful connections with those who have served our country. I am very eager to start and thankful to be able to make a difference.”

- **Isabel Silvar (Class of 2022)**

## Academic Honors

Fifteen students achieved Academic Honors this semester! Congratulations to: Coleen Egan, Ashley Lopez, Madalena Membrila, Mihir Patel, Evelia Guerrero, Jon Oeltjen, Stephanie Perez, Kyla Navarro, Shania Schmitz, Isabel Silvar, Joseph Brown, Samara Graham, Elizabeth Jonas, Lelana Murry, and Melissa Oliveira-Liz.

# PB-2 Student Highlights

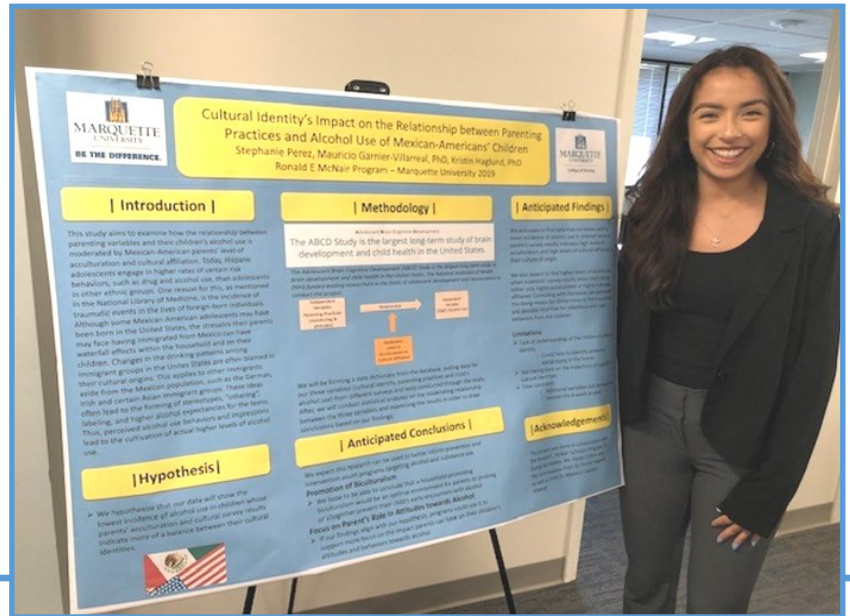


“PB-2 has allowed me to create connections and take advantage of opportunities that I wouldn’t have known of because of being a first-generation student with little knowledge about the professional world. When I realized that there were other students across the university in similar situations as mine, I was inspired to help create an organization that empowers and highlights other first-generation students as well!”  
- Evelia Guerrero (Class of 2021)

**Co-Chair of the I’m First Student Organization at Marquette University**



Veronica Edwards is a member of the ROTC-Navy and will be graduating in May 2023. We salute you for your commitment to this fantastic organization!



Stephanie is a junior and a proud member of PB-2. She was accepted into the McNair Scholars Program and over the summer, participated in an 8-week research institute where she worked with Drs. Kristin Haglund and Mauricio Garnier-Villarreal as her Faculty Research Mentors to develop a presentation titled, “*Cultural Identity’s Impact on the Relationship between Parenting Practices and Alcohol Use of Mexican-Americans’ Children.*”

- Stephanie Perez (Class of 2021), McNair Scholar

## PB-2 Alumni Spotlight: Elena Caro

Elena graduated with a BSN in 2015 with a minor in Spanish for the Health Professions. She then earned her DNP in Advanced Population Health at the University of Illinois-Chicago. She served as a staff nurse, preceptor, and charge nurse at La Rabida Children's Hospital and now is the Quality Nurse Coordinator there. In September 2019, she was awarded the Illinois Nurses' Foundation 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leaders Award. Elena states "my experience as a Marquette student was fulfilling." She states, "[I am] eternally grateful for Project BEYOND, a program that afforded [me] not only lifelong relationships, but valuable academic support and career counseling."



## PB-2 Alumni Spotlight: Alexandria Zielinski

Alexandria graduated with a BSN in 2019 and currently works in Labor & Delivery at Ascension St. Joseph's in Milwaukee and absolutely loves it. Her favorite roles are teaching, developing relationships with her patients, and analyzing the impact of the social determinants of health. She is a member of a few local and national nursing organizations to improve overall health and stays updated on current issues in healthcare. Alexandria states, "being in Project BEYOND-2 was very important to be during my undergraduate [education]. Since graduating, I have now taken a role as a mentor, which I love! It feels great to give back to an organization that has done so much for me. I'm so thankful to be a Marquette Nurse and can't wait to take on new opportunities."



## PB-2 Alumni Spotlight: Alex Mathew

Alex graduated with a BSN in 2015. He currently works as a charge nurse in the medical/surgical/pediatric nursing unit at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital. He serves as the Practice Operations Council chair, the Nurse Scheduling and Staffing Council chair, and the Magnet champion for his unit. He is a preceptor for new hires and nursing students (including the Marquette students). He is a member the Chicago Men in Nursing and also was one of the original members of the Marquette Nursing Alumni group helping with events. When he was a nursing student, his family was struggling financially and his parents had health issues. It was very hard to get through school with all that going on and began struggling with school. Alex stated "The Project BEYOND team was aware of my situation and didn't give up on me. I was able to get a second chance, and with the support, eventually made the Dean's List. "Project BEYOND would not give up on me and believed in me. I owe it to Project Beyond for where I am today."

