

Dr. Rebecca Harris-Smith has served as a nurse for 45 years. She recently retired from the Dean of Nursing and Allied Health at South Louisiana Community College in Lafayette, LA.

Rebecca earned a Doctor of Education Degree; Higher Education Leadership, Nova Southeastern University Fort Lauderdale, FL; Master of Science in Nursing Degree, University of Phoenix, New Orleans, LA. Rebecca also earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education, Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana; Associates of Science in Nursing; Louisiana State University Medical Center; New Orleans, LA, and completed the Practical Nursing Program; G.W. Carver Senior High School, New Orleans, LA.

Rebecca is a lifetime member of the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA), where she currently serves as the liaison between NBNA and American Red Cross. She was appointed to the National Nurse Network Committee in 2016 and won a seat as a Board Member for NBNA in 2019. On the national level, Rebecca served as the Chair of the Nomination Committee, and as the 31st NBNA Local Conference Chair for the NBNA Conference and Institute in New Orleans, LA. On the local level, Dr. Harris-Smith had been a member of 3 chapters which included New Orleans, LA (NOBNA); Los Angeles, CA (CBN-LA); and in Lafayette, LA (ABNA). While a member of NOBNA Rebecca served in multiple positions on the executive committee to include: President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Dr. Harris-Smith's nursing experience ranging from bedside care to administration, community health and academia. Rebecca has served as an advocate for her profession testifying before the LA State Legislature, a mentor for students and professional nurses, a journal reviewer, and has published. Rebecca currently serves as a board member on the National Black Nurses Association and is a member of the American Red Cross/National Nurse Network Committee. She has written and received a small grant, has been interviewed for local TV and magazines, and has secured CE credits to provided professional presentations.

Committed to healthcare and education, Dr. Harris-Smith has been a guest speaker for local and national conferences for many organizations which included; Peri-Anesthesia Nurses Organization, Panelist for Aetna at the 100 Black Men Conference, National Black Environmental Justice Network, National Association of School Nurses, National Black Nurses Associations and many church and community organizations. Rebecca is a Parish Nurse that has worked with the Health Ministry of local churches to improve the healthcare of the congregation. During her early years in nursing Rebecca worked in medical surgical nursing, public health, home health, served as a school nurse, and maternal child health. In 2003 she transitioned to a nurse educator to serve as a role models for the students, assisting them in their journeys toward becoming successful nurses. As a nurse educator, Rebecca has dedicated her energy in nursing education to advocate for increase enrollment, retention, and graduation of African American students seeking admission into schools of nursing.