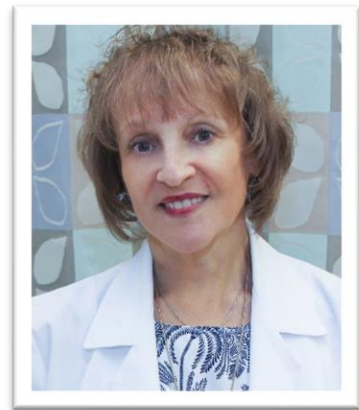


# *Nurse Recognition Award*

CONSTANCE KOZACHEK  
PhD, MSN, CCRN, RN-BC

TRINITAS SCHOOL OF NURSING, RWJBH



Dr. Constance Kozachek is the Associate Dean of Trinitas School of Nursing, RWJBH. Her doctoral dissertation topic, *Factors that Influenced Health Behaviors Among Middle Eastern College Women*, was cultivated from observations made while interacting with nursing students at Trinitas School of Nursing. She was a 2021 graduate from Rutgers University/NJIT Joint Urban Systems PhD Program, Urban Health Track, which focused on the social determinants of health and the interactions between health, environment, and education achievement. Upon completing her PhD, she joined Trinitas as the Associate Dean where she contributed to the school's success in attaining continuing accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and the NJ Board of Nursing and receiving the fourth designation for Trinitas School of Nursing as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education by the National League for Nursing. With her experience and education, Dr. Kozachek provides consultation to the Jewish Family Services of Central New Jersey in Elizabeth, NJ and is a Medical Records Reviewer for legal services.

Dr. Kozachek started in healthcare as a licensed practical nurse. While working as an LPN at Elizabeth General Medical Center, she decided to become a registered nurse and enrolled in Middlesex Community College Associate in Nursing program. She pursued her bachelor's degree in Nursing and her master's degree in Transcultural Nursing from Kean University. Dr. Kozachek demonstrates a model for creating a personal success plan for a nursing career and academic progression in nursing education. Through her own academic journey, she continued to provide nursing care as a staff nurse and a Critical Care Nurse for which she was board-certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as an RN-BC in Nursing Professional Development and as CCRN. She worked for several years at Elizabeth General Hospital Medical Center/Trinitas Regional Medical Center as a Critical Care Nurse and was promoted to the Department of Education, Training and Development as a staff educator and later as the Director of the Department. Her position as adjunct clinical faculty and now as Associate Dean is testament to her dedication to investing in and developing nurses to serve the communities of New Jersey.

Her community service includes being on the Advisory Boards of Kean University, and Union County College Practical Nursing Program. She is a member of the Italian American Service Organization (UNICO), was a chapter president, and a Scholarship Committee member. She is a member of the National League for Nursing, the NJ League for Nursing, American Association of Critical Care Nurses, Association of Nursing Professional Development, Infusion Nurses Society and Sigma Theta Tau.

**Message from Constance:** I would like to acknowledge the continuous support of my husband, Walter, and my children Daniel and Christina.

A special thank-you to Dr. Roseminda Santee, the staff, and faculty of Trinitas School of Nursing for working with me every day. Thank you to our students at Trinitas School of Nursing, for trusting our guidance and teaching.