



Watson Caring  
Science Institute

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Samuel Merritt University Recognized as Academic Affiliate™ of Watson Caring Science Institute**

**Boulder, CO - June 2019** - Watson Caring Science Institute (WCSI) and Dr. Jean Watson are proud to announce [Samuel Merritt University](#) (SMU), Oakland, California has been named a National Watson Caring Science Academic Affiliate™- the second only academic system to achieve formal affiliation of The Watson Caring Science Institute.

The designation recognizes **Samuel Merritt University's** exemplary integration of caring theory and leadership commitment to offer informed Caring Science curriculum to their nursing students. **Samuel Merritt University** joins The College of New Rochelle, New York to become the second academic institution to have ever received the prestigious '[National Caring Science Affiliate™](#)' recognition status.

Paulina Van, PhD, RN, CNE, Professor and Chair, RN to BSN Program, commented *"Our RN to BSN team of faculty and staff are humbled and inspired by **Samuel Merritt University's** designation as a National Watson Caring Science Academic Affiliate™. Caring Science theoretical perspectives have been used as context and the foundation to transform the clinical practice and leadership performance of our scholars in various settings and at myriad stages in their respective careers."*

Caring Science and WCSI Affiliation contributes to the wider **Samuel Merritt University** learning outcomes. Van explains, "Our graduates reported being transformed in ways in which their impact on care, policy, and the caring environment exceeded their expectations."

#### **Transformative Teaching and Learning**

**Samuel Merritt University** has shown their commitment towards authentic, deep-rooted and sustainable Caring Science teaching and learning. Partnering with another **WCSI Affiliate**, Kaiser Foundation Hospital of Northern California, SMU designed a new RN to BSN program grounded in Unitary Caring Science (UCS). The program begins with a MBSR course that serves as an experiential introduction to UCS. Faculty are well-grounded in UCS - five are WCSI trained **Caritas Coaches®**, three HeartMath© trainers and a postdoctoral immersion in UCS. The core values of UCS drive the program's goals and lend to the healing-teaching-learning environment.

Audrey Berman, PhD, RN, Professor and Dean, School of Nursing SMU commented, *"The faculty and students in this program have consistently reported the amazing, positive influence of Unitary Caring Science framework on their learning and their personal and professional lives. In addition, the influence has spread into our other nursing programs and those faculty are beginning to plan how to integrate UCS concepts in their curricula and everyday practices. The recognition from WCSI will serve to provide additional motivation for ongoing and enhanced connections."*



*SMU Team left to right: Dr. Paulina, Van; Bobbie Richards, Nancy Symonds, Kate Lucas, Dr. Alice Vestergaard, Dr. Richard MacIntyre, Dr. Mark Beck, Uzo Nwankpa, Dr. Leni Kaku.*

[Jean Watson](#), Founder and Director of WCSI said: *“I am honored and delighted to formalize the invitation for **Samuel Merritt University** RN2BS Nursing program to be nationally recognized and identified as one of the Inaugural National Caring Science Academic Affiliates of Watson Caring Science Institute. I am impressed and inspired by the nature and depth of caring science curriculum at **Samuel Merritt University**. It will be a privilege to have their program join others pioneering the future for nursing education for a new era upon us all”.*

### **To Become An Affiliate**

To become a National Caring Science System™, **Samuel Merritt University** demonstrated to WCSI the authentically, deep-rooted and sustainable commitment to integrating Caring Science to transform and broaden whole person health and healing in its curriculum and culture. The university joins ten other [National WCSI Affiliate Hospital Systems](#), and fifteen [Global WCSI Associate Systems](#) who have achieved such a recognition.

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### **FURTHER INFO:**

#### **About Watson Caring Science Institute (WCSI)**

The WCSI is an international non-profit organization that advances the philosophies, theories and practices of Human Caring/Caring Science. It was founded by Jean Watson, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, FAAN, who serves as founder and director. Focusing on research, education, praxis, leadership and legacy, the Institute aims to widen the development and understanding of Caring Science to inform our notion of quality care and healing environments. Currently there are over 400 hospitals throughout

the USA with many other partner Healthcare systems globally using the WCSI theory. There are now over 350 WCSI trained practitioner leaders or 'Caritas Coaches®' throughout the world. Texts on Watson's theory of caring is taught in Universities worldwide and translated into over 7 languages. To become a National Caring Science System™ of WCSI, an organization must demonstrate specific criteria related to authentic human caring-healing practices for its whole community.

### **About Jean Watson**

Jean Watson is a Distinguished Professor Emerita and Dean Emerita of the University of Colorado Denver, College of Nursing, where she held the Endowed Chair in Caring Science at the University of Colorado Denver and Health Sciences Center for 16 years. She is the founder of the original Center for Human Caring in Colorado, the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the National Fetzner Institute Norman Cousins Award, an International Kellogg Fellowship in Australia, a Fulbright Research and Lecture Award in Sweden, and 14 honorary doctorate degrees. Watson is the author of more than 100 publications in Caring Science and of more than 30 books on the Science of Human Caring™, including the classic: *Nursing. The Philosophy and Science of Caring* which identifies the 10 core "Caritas Processes®" – universals of human caring, necessary for studying and implementing a model of Caring Science in practice. This work restores the deep-spiritual dimensions of Love with caring-healing as the foundation for preparing a new level of practitioners in Caring Science/Caritas HealthCare. Dr. Watson was designated a Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing, its highest honor.

### **About Samuel Merritt University**

Samuel Merritt University School of Nursing & Healthcare Professions offers a rigorous academic program specializing in extensive professional preparation and a compassionate approach to patient care. They offer undergraduate and graduate degrees in nursing for students of all backgrounds, including traditional and transfer students, those looking to change careers, and RNs seeking to advance their education. Students and their experienced faculty share a deep commitment to holistic healing based on empathy, altruism, and leading-edge nursing skills.