

**Sharon E. Bigger, PhD, MA, RN, CHPN**

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### **ACADEMIC PREPARATION**

- 2016-2021     Doctorate (PhD) in Nursing  
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, Johnson City, TN  
**Dissertation:** Advance care planning protocols and hospitalization, rehospitalization, and emergency department use in home health  
**First Place Winner:** ETSU 3MT® Competition  
**Cognates:** Nursing Education: Macro – pedagogy, diversity, SOTL  
Nursing Education: Micro – curriculum, course development, assessment  
Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis – Theories of Admin.  
Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis – Educational Statistics  
Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis – Adv. Qual. Analysis  
Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis – Action Research
- 2016           Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY, Cullowhee, NC  
Cognates: Spiritual Dimension of Nursing Care  
              International Nursing Perspectives, Edinburgh, Scotland  
              -Focus on hospice and palliative care systems
- 2011           Master of Arts in Philosophy and Religion/Women's Spirituality  
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF INTEGRAL STUDIES, San Francisco, CA  
Thesis: *Caregiving as a Rite of Passage: Stories of Transformation*. Themes: the "ethic of care," caring economics, morality, caregiving, diverse spiritualities, gender, gennepian analysis, rites of passage, organic inquiry methodology.
- 2002           AAS Degree in Nursing  
ASHEVILLE-BUNCOMBE TECH. COMM. COLLEGE, Asheville, NC
- 1995           Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Magna Cum Laude  
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY, Harrisonburg, VA  
Spanish minor & semester abroad, University of Salamanca, Spain  
Award: Outstanding Senior in Sociology  
Honors Thesis: *The Situation of Latin American Migrant Workers in the United States: A bilingual critical qualitative analysis*

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2021-pres.     East Tennessee State University  
**Assistant Professor of Nursing**
- NRSE 3525 Health Promotion and Research
  - NRSE 6002 Health Policy Leadership

- ADMN 0005 Interprofessional Education First Year Experience
- 2020-2021 United States University, San Diego, CA  
**Adjunct Faculty**, high-engagement courses. Watson's Caring Science.
- NUR 371 Foundations of a Caring Science for RNs
  - MSN 561 Theoretical Foundations of Adv. Nursing Practice
  - MSN 600 Evidence-based Capstone Project
- 2016-2020 Mars Hill University, NC  
**Assistant Professor of Nursing & RN-to-BSN Advisor** (2019-2020)  
**Visiting Assistant Professor of Nursing** (2018-2019)  
**Adjunct Faculty** (2016-2018)  
 HRSA grant-funded program to promote diversity in nursing education.  
 Instructor for pre-nursing, pre-licensure, and RN-to-BSN students.  
 Live/seated courses and clinical courses. Proficient in Moodle LMS.
- NUR 257 Transcultural/Global Health NUR 420R Promoting
  - NUR 335 Healing and Healers – designed the course
    - Cross-listed with Gen. Ed. and Women's/Gender Studies
  - NUR 409 Informatics and Telehealth – redesigned the course
  - NUR 420 Promoting Healthy Aging and Quality of Life
  - NUR 420R Promoting Healthy Aging and Quality of Life for RNs
  - NUR 421 Promoting Community Health – didactic & clinical
    - Led students on mission trip to US/Mexico border (2020)
  - NUR 421R Promoting Community Health for RNs
  - NUR 423R Bioethics and the Law for RNs
  - NUR 450R Focused Scholarly Work for RNs (NUR 450R)
- 2018 UNC MAHEC (Mountain Area Health Education Center), Asheville  
**Faculty**, Gerontology Certification Course – Pain Management Module
- 2016-present CarePartners Hospice, Asheville  
**PRN Nurse & Admissions Nurse**  
 Travel to patients' homes to deliver routine and crisis nursing care. Attend to family caregivers' educational and psychosocial needs. Complete admission visits per Medicare eligibility requirements. Float to Home Health PRN.  
**Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse (CHPN)** 2006, 2011, 2015, 2019
- 2016-2017 Mission Health System, Asheville  
**Instructor, Communication in Healthcare**  
 Trained system-wide clinical and non-clinical orientees quarterly in effective and compassionate communication techniques. Validated competency in the skills of presence, patient-centered care, information-gathering, relationship-building, team communication, reflective listening,

and agenda-setting. PEARLS tool of relationship-centered care included partnership, empathy, apology, respect, legitimization, and support.

- 2015-2016    Mission Health, Asheville  
**Director, Post-Acute Clinical Education**  
Directed nine service line interprofessional educators for home health, hospice, PACE, and rehabilitative services. Assessed, planned, implemented, and evaluated orientation, continuing education, and in-service education programs at the individual, departmental, and organizational levels. Developed staff competencies, provided system leadership, & supported performance improvement. Promoted research and evidence-based practice. Maintained cross-site regional responsibility for centralized nursing, therapy, and other disciplines' staff development. Liaison with acute care hospital educational resources.  
**Certification in Nursing Professional Development (RN-BC), 2016**
- 2011-2015    CarePartners Hospice & Palliative Care, Asheville  
**Clinical Educator**  
Facilitated continuing education for interdisciplinary staff; coordinated orientation for new staff; precepted nursing students (RN, LPN, MSN); educated SNFs & public about hospice and palliative care; visited & admitted patients to the hospice service. Served as faculty for Asheville Palliative Medicine Program. Presented at professional conferences:
- ALS Association Teleconference, Keynote Speaker, January 2014
  - Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care, Caring Conference, (presenter) "Caregiving as a Rite of Passage: Stories of Transformation," 4/2013.
  - Faculty, UNCA College for Seniors, "Hospice 101: Dancing on the Edge of the Abyss," October 2012.
  - National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization (presenter) "Caregiving as a Rite of Passage: Stories of Transformation," October 2011 & "Cultivating the Lineage: Intermodal Preceptor Training Strategies," November 2012
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Nursing Assistants' Conference (presenter): "How to keep your patients (and yourself) safe: National Patient Safety Goals," Asheville, NC, October 2012
  - NC Association for Home and Hospice Care, (presenter): "Caregiving as a Rite of Passage: Stories of Transformation," April 2011
  - WNC Council on Aging, (presenter): "Caregiving as a Rite of Passage: Stories of Transformation," May 2011
  - Southeast Women's Herbal Conference, (presenter): "Conscious Dying and the Death Doula," October 2010 & 2011
- 2011-present    **ELNEC Trainer**  
Taught End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium, Core Curriculum, to health care professionals and students

- Mars Hill University prelicensure & RN to BSN students 2016-2019
- Mission Health System, 2012-2015
- Train-the-Trainer presenter, NC Hospice Educators Network, Fall 2014

- 2007-2010 Pathways Home Health and Hospice, Oakland CA  
**Nurse Case Manager**  
 Provided direct care and end-of-life education. Developed tailored goals of care with diverse patients and families; traveled to Bay Area facilities and private homes to coordinate & deliver plan of care. Collaborated with Interdisciplinary Team. Organized monthly staff support group. Member of point-of-care documentation committee.
- 2005-2007 CarePartners Hospice & Palliative Care, Asheville  
**Nurse Case Manager**  
 Managed caseload of homecare and facility patients; provided direct care, education and therapeutic communication to patients and families; and collaborated with interprofessional team.
- 2004-2005 Asheville Yoga Center  
**Yoga Teacher**  
 240-hour training to become a registered Yoga Teacher (RYT) in the Vinyasa Tradition (Hatha yoga). Training included daily personal practice, apprenticeship, student teaching, book reviews, and final thesis project: "Yoga and Western Women". Taught at YWCA.
- 2003-2007 Asheville Playback Theater  
**Actor**  
 Used improvisational techniques to honor life stories; used audience participation, therapeutic communication, and minimal props. General audience shows as well as service-oriented shows at prisons, shelters, and private companies for team development.
- 2002-2005 Mission Hospitals, Asheville  
**Registered Nurse, Neurosciences**
  - Postoperative, rehabilitative, palliative, and acute medical care.
  - Geriatric Resource Nurse (GRN)
  - Committees: Process Improvement, Integrative Nursing Initiative, Magnet Recognition
  - Clinical staff for Coqui, Mission's summer camp for children with diabetes
- 2001-2003 UNC MAHEC (Mountain Area Health Education Center), Asheville, NC  
**Faculty**, Medical Spanish for the Interdisciplinary Team

- 2000-2002 Mission Hospitals, Asheville  
**Medical Interpreter**  
 Served as on-call interpreter for English-Spanish needs in the Emergency Department, Labor and Delivery, and Medical-Surgical units.
- 1998-2000 Blue Ridge Community Health Center, Hendersonville, NC  
**Bilingual Patient Representative**  
 Served as interpreter, medical assistant, and floor manager for federally qualified migrant and community health center (FQHC)
- 1997-1998 **International Volunteer**, Mexico, Guatemala, & Nicaragua  
 Served development projects in women's health and indigenous rights
- 1995-1997 East Coast Migrant Health Project  
**Health Educator**  
 Provided health education, interpretation, and advocacy services to migrant farmworkers. Relocated seasonally according to the migrant stream in Florida, South Carolina, and Massachusetts.

#### **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

- 2002-pres. Registered Nurse, North Carolina  
 2007-2009 Registered Nurse, California (inactive)  
 2018-pres. Basic Life Support: AHA  
 2016-pres. American Nurses Credentialing Center  
 Nursing Professional Development (RN-BC)  
 2005-pres. Hospice & Palliative Credentialing Center  
 Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse (CHPN)

#### **AWARDS/HONORS**

- 2020 3MT® Public Speaking Competition, First Place, ETSU  
 2019 Course Hero: <https://www.coursehero.com/faculty-club/best-lessons/sharon-bigger/>  
 2017 Clinical Ladder Level V – Hospice Nurse Expert, Mission Health System  
 2016-2017 Tuition Scholar, ETSU  
 2017-present Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society  
 2016-present Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society  
 2014 Sharon Jacques Nursing Scholarship

#### **UNIVERSITY, PROFESSIONAL, and COMMUNITY SERVICE**

##### ***University***

- 2016 Chair, Student Appeals Committee (ETSU)  
 2018-2019 Member, Academic Integrity Committee (MHU)  
 2018-2019 Dean's Search Committee (MHU)

**Professional**

2018-present Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS)  
2016-present Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA)  
2015-2017 Nursing Evidence-Based Practice and Research Council, Mission Health  
2014-present American Nurses' Association (ANA)  
2014-present North Carolina Nurses' Association (NCNA)  
2013-2016 Ethics Committee, Mission Health System

**Community**

2019-present Volunteer Translator, Freedom For Immigrants  
2013-present Volunteer, Woman Within International  
2013-present Volunteer, Habitat for Humanity  
2012-2016 Board Member, WNC Funeral Consumers Alliance

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

2021 Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) mentorship program  
2021 Moving Beyond White Fragility for Nurses: Honest Communication  
2020 Overdue Reckoning on Racism in Nursing, with Dr. Peggy Chinn  
2020 Conveying and Sustaining Caring in Online Classrooms, East Carolina U.  
2020 Mindful Communication for Caring Online, East Carolina U.  
2019 Interprofessional Education Faculty Core Competencies, ETSU  
2018 & 2021 Annual Assembly of Hospice and Palliative Medicine/HPNA  
2018 Nursing Educator Education Development Certificate, East Carolina U.  
2018 Seminar in Nursing Informatics, University of Minnesota  
2018 Original Voice ® writing workshop with Dr. Clarissa Pinkola-Estes  
2017 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, University of Illinois  
2017 Culturally Competent Nursing Care Certificate, USDHHS  
2010 Caring Economics Certificate, Center for Partnership Studies

**RESEARCH & PUBLICATION EXPERIENCE****RESEARCH**

2018-present Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Research in Interprofessional Practice and Education*  
2018-present Peer Reviewer, *International Journal of Health Sciences Education*  
2017 Odum Institute, Annual Qualitative Research Intensive, UNC – Chapel Hill  
2017 Research Assistant: Role of RN in Primary Care Delivery Models, Western Carolina University  
2016-2019 ETSU Research Assistant: Guardianship as Social Experience  
ETSU Research Assistant: Health Status of PALS Caregivers  
ETSU Research Assistant: Faculty Perceptions of DNP Scholarship  
ETSU Research Assistant: Farmworker Heat Stroke Study  
ETSU Research Assistant: History of Nurses in Appalachia

## PUBLICATIONS

**Bigger, S.,** Haddad, L., Ahluwalia, S. C., & Glenn, L. (2021). Advance care planning protocols and hospitalization rates in Home Health Value-Based Purchasing. *Home Health Care Management and Practice*, 33(4), 1-8.  
<https://doi:10.1177/10848223211021393>

**Bigger, S.,** & Vo, T. (in press, February 2022). Self-perceived burden: A critical evolutionary concept analysis. *Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing*.

Stephens, T. M., **Bigger, S.,** Cabage, L., & Tobias, R. (2021). Novel use of experiential learning in an online Doctor of Philosophy theory course. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 60(7), 391-393. <https://doi.org/10.3928/01484834-20210616-05>

Haddad, L. & **Bigger, S.** (2020). Radiology nursing ethics and moral distress. *Journal of Radiologic Nursing*, 39(4), 278-285. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jradnu.2020.06.003>

**Bigger, S. E.,** & Haddad, L. (2019). Advance care planning in home health: A review of the literature. *Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing*, 21(6), 518-523.  
<https://doi: 10.1097/NJH.0000000000000591>

**Bigger, S. E.** (2011). *Caregiving as a Rite of Passage: Stories of Transformation*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

## POSTERS PRESENTED

**Bigger, S. E.,** & Glenn, L. L. (2021). Advance care planning protocols and emergency department use in Home Health Value-Based Purchasing. Palliative Care Research Day, University of Colorado – Anschutz.

Stephens, T. M., **Bigger, S. E.,** Cabage, L., Craine, J., & Tobias, R. B. (2017). “Novel Use of experiential learning to enhance the exploration of theory development for PhD students,” Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS), Dallas, TX.

**Bigger, S. E.** (2017). “Educating the interprofessional team: Engaging in Advance Care Planning conversations,” Interprofessional Education Conference, Pigeon Forge, TN.

**Bigger, S. E.** (2012). “Intermodal preceptor training strategies,” South Eastern Nurse Educator Symposium, Asheville, NC.

## REVIEWER

Mullinax, M. (2021). *Tao Te Ching: Power to the Peaceful*. Fortress Press.