

**College of Science, Health and the Liberal Arts Outstanding Alumni Award - Nell Tharpe CNM, FACNM, MS `03**

Nell Tharpe CNM, MS, FACNM is a certified nurse-midwife who received her initial certificate in Nurse-Midwifery from State University of New York-Downstate in 1986 and her M.S. in Midwifery from Philadelphia University in 2003.

Previously in full scope midwifery and surgical first assistant practice for two decades, Nell has been teaching at Philadelphia University using distance education since 2004. She currently teaches and mentors midwives across North America as adjunct faculty in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, in partnership with the Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University.

Nell is the original author of the widely used midwifery text *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Midwifery and Women's Health*, recently released in its 5th edition. She is also the author of *The Midwife as Surgical First Assistant*, which is the primary text for her courses at PhilaU, and a chapter contributor to the text *Pharmacology for Women's Health*, and numerous articles related to midwifery practice.

Nell strives to apply the principles she learned through the Midwifery M.S. Completion Program at the Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University through her work in midwifery education and advocating for quality health care for women.

Nell is active in her home state of Maine in promoting public policies to improve the health of women and families, and education of maternity care professionals. She was instrumental in the inclusion of Certified Midwives in Maine's new law to license Certified Midwives (CMs) and Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs).

In her role as a Perinatal and Women's Health Consultant, Nell's passion is bridging the gap between theory and practice. Her primary focus is ensuring that all women have access to the benefits of high quality midwifery care in every birth setting and across the continuum of perinatal and women's health services.

Nell plans to continue her education by enrolling in the upcoming Doctorate in Midwifery program offered through the Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University.

**Acceptance Letter:**

I am thrilled to be among the first PhilaU Alumni to be honored with the Outstanding Alumni Award, and deeply grateful to the Midwifery Institute for their nomination.

The education and real-life experience I gained as a graduate student at Philadelphia University expanded my horizons and has resulted in significant positive impact on my professional role as a midwife and on midwifery in my state. The faculty at PhilaU built on my existing strengths and nurtured and developed interests that I didn't yet know I had.

Through the skilled mentoring and knowledge gained through PhilaU, I expanded my professional role beyond that of a clinician. After graduation, I was invited to develop and initiate on-line continuing education programs for midwives through the College of Continuing and Professional Studies where I work today. By working in conjunction with the Midwifery Institute,

Philadelphia University now offers clinically oriented online continuing education opportunities relevant to practicing midwives. I also gained the skills necessary to be highly effective in health policy work at the state and national levels, and gained the confidence to participate in municipal government in my community.

I would like to express my great respect for the faculty, staff, students and alumni of Philadelphia University, and my deep appreciation to be the recipient of this award.