



ST. JOHN
FISHER
UNIVERSITY

GOLISANO INSTITUTE
FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY NURSING

2026-2028

STRATEGIC PLAN



Dear Colleagues and Partners,

The Golisano Institute for Developmental Disability Nursing was founded to transform care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by supporting nurses at every stage of their professional journey. Our goal is simple and ambitious: a healthcare system where every person with IDD receives high-quality, informed, and person-centered care.

Over the past six years, the Golisano Institute has grown from a promising idea into the first national organization dedicated to this mission and a trusted leader in nursing education, practice, and systems change.

We have built a robust portfolio of high-quality educational programs reaching thousands of learners, expanded our national presence through scholarship and partnerships, and cultivated a growing community of nurse leaders who are improving care in their organizations and communities. You have been alongside us on our journey; this progress would not have been possible without you. These achievements create a strong foundation for what comes next.

Now, at a pivotal moment, we are proud to share our 2026–2028 Strategic Plan. By 2028, the Institute will reach 15,000 learners nationwide, produce 75 scholarly contributions to guide nursing practice, and activate a network capable of driving 200 organizational, policy, and systems changes.

This work will strengthen the nursing workforce and advance safer, inclusive, and more equitable care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are deeply grateful to the funders, partners, and advisors who make this work possible, and we look forward to building this next chapter with you.

With gratitude,



Holly E. Brown, DNP, RN, PMHNP-BC
Executive Director, Golisano Institute for Developmental
Disability Nursing
St. John Fisher University

Mission

The mission of the Golisano Institute for Developmental Disability Nursing is to lead the preparation and practice of an international cadre of nurses and health care professionals equipped with the knowledge, evidence-based skills and competencies needed to improve the health, well-being and care of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the lifespan and systems of care.

Vision

To be the premier provider of innovative, evidence-informed educational solutions that build nursing competency and support the delivery of exceptional care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Priorities



Prepare the nursing and interprofessional workforce through the nationwide distribution of high-impact, IDD-inclusive educational content for pre- and post-licensure learners to shape a more capable and inclusive health care workforce.



Generate and disseminate evidence that informs nursing education, clinical practice, policy, and workforce development across the nation.



Advance systemic reforms at the national level while preparing and connecting an elite cadre of nurse leaders into a collaborative network to drive change locally, contribute to national reforms, and surface and scale proven solutions.

Priority 1: Workforce Readiness

The Institute is positioned as the seminal leader – leveraging its deep expertise and the innovative ecosystem of Rochester, NY -- to prepare the nursing and interprofessional workforce. Through the nationwide distribution of high-impact, IDD-inclusive educational content for pre- and post-licensure learners, the Institute is shaping a more capable and inclusive health care workforce. By the end of 2028, the Institute will reach 15,000 students and professionals across the United States, driving national nursing practice standards.

Initiative 1.1:

Cultivate key relationships and leverage peer influence to integrate IDD-inclusive content into pre-licensure nursing education.

Initiative 1.2:

Collaborate with leading distribution platforms and professional organizations to strategically accelerate distribution of post-licensure educational content nationwide.

Initiative 1.3:

Enhance organizational infrastructure to enable scalable development, continuous improvement, and purposeful alignment of high-quality, IDD-inclusive educational products with professional standards.



Priority 2: Thought Leadership

Generate and disseminate evidence that informs nursing education, clinical practice, policy, and workforce development across the nation. The Institute will foster collaborative scholarship and advance its mission by leveraging the Golisano Fellowship network and the academic strengths of its strategic partners, including the Wegmans School of Nursing at St. John Fisher University. By the end of 2028, the Institute will produce and disseminate 75 scholarly outputs – including peer-reviewed publications, presentations, and policy briefs to inform improvements in workforce readiness.

Initiative 2.1:

Advance the evidence base by conducting inquiry that contributes knowledge about health disparities and outcomes, identifies workforce development needs, and documents best practices in IDD care.

Initiative 2.2:

Rigorously evaluate the impact of the Institute’s educational products on patient outcomes, care team wellness, and cost-efficiency, to inform partner engagement and support broader adoption.

Initiative 2.3:

Maintain and expand the Institute’s national authority in academic and professional arenas, ensuring that emerging evidence shapes the discourse in nursing education, clinical practice, and health policy.



Priority 3: Systems Transformation

Advance systemic reforms at the national level while preparing and connecting an elite cadre of nurse leaders into a collaborative network to drive change locally, contribute to national reforms, and surface and scale proven solutions. By the end of 2028, the Institute will prepare 75 Golisano Fellows and, in collaboration with this community and its broader network, will catalyze IDD inclusion in 200 organizations, policies, and systems.

Initiative 3.1:

Establish a definitive national platform for engaging nursing leaders, educators, investigators, and partners—leveraging the Golisano Fellowship network as a catalyst—to convene a flagship conference focused on systems transformation, knowledge transfer, and collaborative innovation.

Initiative 3.2:

Influence policy and systems of care in ways that support health equity for individuals with IDD, building on shared advocacy efforts with peer organizations supported by the Golisano Foundation and the Institute's broader network.

Initiative 3.3:

Accelerate the adoption and replication of effective IDD care practices by promoting successful models from within the Fellowship network, enabling nurse leaders to adapt proven approaches across diverse settings nationwide.

