The chair’s goals include increasing the visibility of nursing excellence in middle Tennessee and increasing research collaboration between MTSU and local healthcare agencies.

The National HealthCare Corporation (NHC) Chair of Excellence in Nursing is an endowed chair filled by a doctorally prepared nurse with a national reputation. The chair was funded through a private donation of $312,500 from NHC matched by MTSU. The Tennessee General Assembly matched the combined sum of $625,000, and a trust account of $1,250,000 was established in 1989. Interest from the trust provides salary and operating expenses for the chair, plus a variety of resources for faculty and students in the School of Nursing and the local health care community.

Current goals of the NHC Chair are to increase the visibility of nursing excellence in the middle Tennessee region; provide developmental support to nursing faculty; increase scholarly productivity from the MTSU School of Nursing; increase external funding support to the school; provide consultative and educational support to nurses in local healthcare agencies; and increase research collaboration between the school, other MTSU departments, and local healthcare agencies.

Dr. Suzanne Prevost, hired in 1998, is the third person to hold this position. She was recruited from her former position with the University of Texas Medical Branch, where she was a nursing administrator, researcher, and faculty member. Prior to her service there, she held positions at the Texas Heart Institute/St. Luke’s Hospital, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Louisiana State University Medical Center, Medical University of South Carolina, and the Veterans Administration System.

Prevost is a tenured nursing professor who participates in undergraduate teaching and School of Nursing governance. She also leads University-wide initiatives and provides local, national, and international presentations and consultations. In addition to serving as lead teacher for an undergraduate nursing course, she presents guest lectures for other courses in the School of Nursing and other MTSU departments. She is frequently a speaker for local, national, and international healthcare conferences, presenting at national conferences 10 to 20 times a year and frequently serving as keynote speaker. Recently she has given presentations to local community groups on a variety of topics including heart disease, pain management, women’s health, intensive care, leadership, mentorship, and research collaboration.

The chair often serves as sponsor of continuing education workshops for middle Tennessee nurses, other healthcare providers, and laypeople interested in health-related topics. Creative Teaching Strategies, Pain Assessment and Management, Nursing Leadership Strategies, Writing for Publication, Grant-Writing, and Cultural Sensitivity are examples of recent workshops. The NHC Chair of Excellence Intramural Grants Program provides funding for nursing faculty and students to support research projects, continuing education programs, travel to national nursing conferences, equipment, and other School of Nursing resources.

Prevost serves as editor of a nursing journal, Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America, purchased by hospitals, universities, and individual nurses throughout North America. She has published more than 70 articles in nursing journals, textbooks, and lay media and frequently provides healthcare consultation and commentaries to local reporters.

The chairholder leads several University-wide initiatives providing opportunities for partnerships between the University and the community. She has chaired the MTSU United Way/Charitable Giving Campaign for the past two years and the University-wide Faculty Research Symposium for the past three years.

Prevost serves as a consultant to groups on campus, across Tennessee, and across the country, providing consultation on research projects, educational program development, and leadership and management topics. She serves as president of the local chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society. She is chairperson of a nationwide nursing certification board and the International Evidence-Based Practice Task Force.

Dr. Suzanne Prevost, at right, holds the NHC Chair of Excellence in Nursing.