



### **Melanie Kamp, RN, MS Student**

Melanie Kamp was raised in the urban sprawl of Tampa, Florida and moved to the prairies of North Dakota in 2015. She has been a licensed nurse since 2017, earning her Practical Nursing Certificate in 2017 and Associate Degree in Registered Nursing in 2018 from Lake Region State College (LRSC), followed by her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Mayville State University (MSU) in 2021.

Over the course of her nursing career in long-term care, case management, and tribal health nursing, Melanie has discovered a passion for educating patients and staff alike while developing a keen interest in the unique challenges rural residents face accessing healthcare. This motivated her to return to MSU in 2023 where she is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing degree with a focus in nursing education.

Her graduate research is rooted in her passion for rural health, health equity, and social determinants of health while exploring how these topics are currently addressed in nursing education. Her goal is that through her continued research, healthcare professionals across the interdisciplinary team will be empowered to advocate for health equity in all populations.

**Description of Presentation:** In this presentation, Melanie will discuss how post-pandemic healthcare has placed greater emphasis on nurses at every level of practice being able to identify and address social determinants of health (SDOH). However, a vast majority of curriculum related to SDOH is reserved for graduate level nursing students. A growing body of evidence suggests that failure to introduce SDOH into curriculum sooner leaves nurses, particularly novice nurses, without the knowledge and tools necessary to have these important conversations with their patients.