



After May 2017 Graduation:

Career goals: make a positive impact on ethno-geriatric care; mitigate pain disparities in African Americans by enhancing personal capability for self-management; affect public change in health-care practices and policy in community and corporate setting to implement culturally-responsive pain treatment practices.

Congratulations!

Staja Booker, B.S.N., M.S., R.N., PhD

2017 College of Nursing

Dean's Achievement Recipient

A native of Jonesboro, La., Staja “Star” Booker is a registered geriatric nurse who will earn her PhD in nursing from the University of Iowa College of Nursing in May 2017 with a clinical and research focus on pain management in racially and culturally diverse older adults. Star’s research investigates osteoarthritis and chronic joint pain self-management in aging African Americans. Her research was funded by the National Hartford Center for Gerontological Nursing Excellence Patricia G. Archbold Award, Mayday Fund, and Pain and Associated Symptoms T32. In 2015, Sigma Theta Tau Intl. Honor Society of Nursing awarded Star the “Rising Stars of Scholarship and Research”. Star has published several articles in peer-reviewed journals and presented her work at international and national conferences. In fall 2012, Star received national acclaim at the following national conferences: The Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS); The Gerontological Society of America (GSA); the National Gerontological Nurses Association (NGNA); and her abstract titled *“Reducing Pain Disparities in African Americans: Setting the Education, Practice, and Research Agenda”* was selected for poster presentation at the National Institute of Health-National Institute of Minority Health Disparities Summit. She has also co-taught an online nursing course on pain management. In summer 2014, out of thirty national scholars who applied, Star was selected as a scholarly fellow to attend the prestigious University of Michigan Summer Training Workshop on African American Aging. Star also re-vamped the College’s Multicultural Nursing Association student organization.

