

Education Council School of Health Sciences

Candidate Statement for **Michelle House-Kokan**, RN, MSN, EdD

Ever since my first time precepting a student in a clinical setting, I have been intrigued by the processes involved in teaching and learning, and in how professionals themselves learn to teach students of their disciplines. Because of this interest, I delved headfirst into the world of education and became a faculty member in the Critical Care program in the Specialty Nursing Department at BCIT. I took numerous courses and workshops to help expand my understanding of teaching and learning, and when the time came for me to undertake a Master's program in nursing, I focused on education. Over the last 25 years at BCIT, I have been deeply involved in many aspects of academic matters, including program review and development, curriculum review and development, evaluation design and development, program-level and department-level policy development, and now faculty development. In the process, I have had wonderful opportunities to collaborate with other departments within the School of Health Sciences, building relationships and sharing resources. In addition, I have conducted related research as my doctoral dissertation, working with my supervisor to explore and understand the processes by which professionals of a discipline learn to teach, and the barriers and supports to these processes. My experiences have taught me the importance of thoughtful policy to provide the framework for excellence in educational processes, and also the necessity of attention to detail, careful observation, open-mindedness, and collaboration. I believe these skills are essential in this role, particularly as BCIT works towards decolonization and advancing reconciliation. I believe that my passion for education, combined with my academic background, experience, and focus on inclusivity, make me a strong candidate.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to apply for a seat on the BCIT Education Council. I am committed to educational excellence that is inclusive for all, and I am confident that I will be able to make a meaningful contribution on behalf of the School of Health Sciences.