Dr. Krause-Parelo is the coordinator of the School Nurse program at Kean University and Director of the Center for Nursing Research (CNR). Dr. Krause-Parelo has created, in the CNR, a unique opportunity for faculty and students to collaborate in all aspects of the research process. The advancement of knowledge and understanding is of absolute importance to the field of nursing and other fields, and the CNR educates students through mentoring in scholarly activities and support in their commitment to research.

Dr. Krause-Parelo also has innovatively enhanced the School Nurse Program’s student academic preparation and has added to the knowledge of the role of the school nurse through the process of discovery. Because of numerous conference presentations with her students, Kean University is gaining a scholarly leadership reputation in School Nursing research and advancement of nursing knowledge.

Currently, Dr. Krause-Parelo is working on a number of projects in the Center for Nursing Research. She and her research team are partnered with Caregiver Volunteers of Ocean County New Jersey. This study examines canine visitation on the physical and emotional health of older adults and their caregivers. Another study is underway investigating the effects of animal-assisted therapy on stress indicators in child survivors of sexual abuse. This study examines the relationships among salivary cortisol, blood pressure and pulse during forensic interviews with a therapy canine present.

Dr. Krause-Parelo’s commitment to working with vulnerable communities demonstrates her role as a leader. Her positive impact on her students and research assistants has encouraged them to pursue academic research and to focus their efforts in the community.

Dr. Krause-Parelo has engaged many graduate Nursing majors and non-nursing majors as research assistants, which provided them with valuable experience in the research process. Her mentoring of the students kept them eagerly engaged in projects, including the presentation of findings at several professional venues. Two students were so motivated that they have enrolled in doctoral study programs.

With her students, Dr. Krause-Parelo has added to the knowledge base of clinical nursing through grant-funded research such as American Federation of Teachers (AFT healthcare), Sigma Theta Tau International, Kean University’s internal funding sources: Interdisciplinary Research Award, Presidential Scholars Challenge Award, UFRI, SpF and RTR awards; faculty-student presentations at the National Association of School Nurses Annual Conventions in Nashville and Albuquerque; and subsequent faculty-student publications, in national, peer-reviewed journals such as the Journal of School Nursing, British Journal of School Nursing, Journal for Specialists in Pediatric Nursing, and Issues in Comprehensive Pediatric Nursing.

Today Dr. Krause-Parelo continues to demonstrate fervor for research focusing on human-animal interactions and the interactive effects on human health outcomes.

The Office of Research & Sponsored Programs and the Division of Institutional Advancement & Research are pleased to recognize Dr. Cheryl Krause-Parelo’s dedication to students with the 2011 Faculty Research Mentor of the Year Award. Congratulations!