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Johnson to be Honored as Distinguished Nursing Alumna

Sept. 7, 2016

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— The Illinois Wesleyan University Distinguished Alumna Award for Excellence in Nursing will be presented to Nancy (Jenkins) Johnson '78 at [Homecoming 2016](#).

Johnson is currently the chief executive officer for El Rio Community Health Center in Tucson, Ariz., one of the largest federally qualified health centers in the country. She previously spent more than 15 years with the Tucson Medical Center, building community health and wellness programs, acquiring and managing medical practices for the TMC system, and expanding community networks.

After graduating from Illinois Wesleyan with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Johnson earned a master's degree in nursing from the University of Illinois and holds a master's in marketing and business from the University of Arizona Eller College. Johnson's doctoral research focused on providing perspectives in caring for the uninsured population; she earned a Ph.D. in health services from the University of Arizona. Johnson serves as an adjunct clinical professor for the University of Arizona College of Medicine and was the recent recipient of the University of Arizona's Cecil B. Hart Humanitarian Award.

On Oct.1 from 9 to 11 a.m., a social and awards ceremony honoring Johnson will be held in the Center for Natural Sciences, where she will present her address "Cornfields to Saguaros: The Journey Continues." Following the social, tours of the School of Nursing's recent renovations will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Stevenson Hall. Dedication remarks will begin at 11:15 a.m. outside of Stevenson Hall.



Nancy (Jenkins) Johnson '78

By Vi Kakares '20

