

Madeline LeBlanc, MHA, IBCLC, RNC-OB, ICBD/AT  
Executive Director  
Mary's Hands Network 501(c)(3)  
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### ***EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND***

2026	Oklahoma State University Doctorate	Stillwater, OK Healthcare Administration
2020	Louisiana State University Shreveport Master of Science	Shreveport, LA Healthcare Administration
2016	Southeastern Louisiana University Bachelor of Science	Hammond, LA Nursing
2014	Belmont Abbey College Bachelor of Arts	Belmont, NC Biology and Psychology

### **PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND**

#### **Executive Director**

#### **Founder and President**

#### **Mary's Hands Network (MHN)**

#### ***2023 – Present***

As the founder and leader of Mary's Hands Network (MHN), I established Louisiana's first ICEA-approved doula training program, training over 250 volunteer doulas and supporting more than 175 mothers and more than 500 families. Developed a comprehensive Doula Training Curriculum with textbook and workbook, Volunteer Field Guide, and Organizational Handbook to ensure culturally sensitive, evidence-based care delivery throughout the network.

MHN's initiatives include bereavement support, trauma-informed care, postpartum programs, and a prison ministry serving incarcerated mothers, alongside the upcoming launch of a Spanish-language doula training program to improve access to culturally competent care. These programs empower communities by transforming care recipients into agents of change and addressing systemic maternal healthcare disparities. In partnership with Baton Rouge General Hospital, an IRB-approved research protocol was designed to evaluate MHN's impact on maternal outcomes, including cesarean delivery rates, preterm births, and breastfeeding initiation. This research aims to inform program improvements, expand data collection to additional hospitals, and advocate for Medicaid reimbursement for doula services.

**Director of Healthcare Initiatives and Partnerships (2022-2023)**

**Healthcare Programs Manager (2020)**

**Nursing Faculty (Adjunct 2020-2023)**

**Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC)**

**Workforce Development**

*2020 – 2023*

Addressed critical healthcare workforce needs by developing and standardizing training programs, including Louisiana’s first Certified Mental Health Technician (CMHT) curriculum, approved by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) and the National Career Certification Board (NCCB). Designed state-approved Medication Attendant Certified and Certified Nurse Aide programs and pathways between non-credit and credit offerings to improve accessibility for students pursuing industry-based certifications. Created and implemented a Certified Professional Coder exam preparation Boot Camp, significantly improving national certification exam success rates. Led the development of a multimedia marketing strategy to increase enrollment and statewide visibility, bridging workforce development with healthcare education and aligning training programs with industry demands to address critical staffing shortages.

**Nursing Faculty (Full-Time and Adjunct)**

**William Carey University and Baton Rouge Community College**

*2020 – 2023*

Developed and taught undergraduate nursing courses across multiple specialties, including obstetrics, pediatrics, pathopharmacology, and nursing fundamentals, and a graduate-level online course in Introduction to Research Processes. Provided mentorship to students navigating the challenges of balancing academics, parenthood, and employment, guiding them through systemic barriers to achieve academic and professional success. Designed and implemented evidence-based curricula, including the doula training program now central to Mary’s Hands Network initiatives. These roles emphasized fostering educational equity and workforce development, contributing to a broader focus on improving healthcare outcomes through community-based care.

**CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

August 2019 – 2024	Registered Nurse Birth Center of Baton Rouge Labor and Delivery, Recovery and Postpartum, and Newborn Transition.
October 2021 – November 2021	Registered Nurse Woman’s Hospital 8-week temporary contract to assist with the COVID-19-related nursing shortage
February 2017 – January 2020	Registered Nurse Baton Rouge General Medical Center Unit Experience: Labor and Delivery, Recovery and Postpartum, Newborn Transition, Pre- Intra- and Post-Operative Care, Neonatal Intensive Care, Triage and Assessment Center.

May 2012 - Birth Doula (DONA trained in 2012): Supported clients at MiraVia  
January 2020 as well as private clients throughout Baton Rouge, New Orleans,  
Covington, and Lafayette, Louisiana.

## PRESENTATIONS

2026 LeBlanc M. *Midwife and Doula Care Models in Postpartum Care*. Panelist at the American Heart Association's Advancing Maternal Health: Patient-Provider Connection Forum. Virtual national forum. May 2026.

2026 LeBlanc M. *Impact in Action Beyond Referrals: How Community Organizations Design, Deliver, and Demonstrate Impact*. 2026 Connect Summit hosted by findhelp. Virtual national session co-presented with Hearts & Hands Food Pantry and SALT Outreach Inc. on weaving digital tools into community organizations' daily operations to transform referrals into supportive, data-driven journeys and strengthen cross-sector accountability through closed-loop systems. May 2026.

2026 LeBlanc M. *Bridging Gaps in Maternal Health Care*. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation Maternal Health Providers Convening. Virtual statewide convening of maternal health organizations from across Louisiana. May 2026.

2025 LeBlanc M. *Leading with Heart*. Louisiana WIC Conference presentation on servant leadership.

2025 LeBlanc M. and Jackson J. *Compassion in Crisis* curriculum development for Walking with Moms in Need collaboration with Roman Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge. Program presentation offered in parishes throughout Greater Baton Rouge.

2025 LeBlanc M. *Bridging Birth Gaps: A retrospective study of volunteer doula care and birth outcomes at a Louisiana Hospital over three years*. InJoy Health Education's Annual Summit - virtual presentation.

2025 LeBlanc M. *The Doula Effect—Researching the Impact of Doulas on Maternal Health and Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)*. Presented at Southern University and A&M College School of Nursing Research Symposium. Baton Rouge, LA

2025 LeBlanc M. *Integrating Doulas into the Hospital Birth Care Team*. Presentation series with coordinated online and hands-on teaching related to comfort measures and labor support methods specific to labor and birth in the hospital. Baton Rouge General Medical Center: Labor and Delivery, Postpartum, NICU, and OBGYN clinical staff. Baton Rouge, LA

2025 LeBlanc M. *Doulas: The Newest Member of the Hospital Birth Care Team*.

- Presentation series to Vanderbilt School of Nursing Midwifery, Family Nurse Practice, and Register Nursing students in OB clinical rotation. Nashville, TN

- 2024 LeBlanc, M. *Doulas: The Newest Member of the Hospital Birth Care Team*.
- Continuing education presentation for AWOHNN Louisiana facilitated with Woman's Hospital - virtual presentation
  - InJoy Health Education's Annual Summit - virtual presentation
  - ICEA Bi-Annual Conference - San Antonio, TX

2024 LeBlanc, M. *Community Initiatives Impacting SDOH*. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation Annual Convening panel discussion on grant funded doula training program and early pilot program outcomes. Baton Rouge, LA

2023 LeBlanc, M. *Three creative avenues for helping mom*. A break-out session presentation at the Louisiana Pro-Life Summit discussing the impact of doulas on maternal/newborn outcomes and a way to provide volunteer doulas to moms in need through Mary's Hands Network.

2022 LeBlanc, M. *High Fidelity Simulation on a low fidelity budget: simulating an automated medication administration machine through the magic of PowerPoint*. Presented at: 2022 Simulation Medical Training and Education Counsel of Louisiana Simulation Expo. April 29, 2022; Lafayette, LA.

2022 LeBlanc, M and Wellete, J. Birth education round table presentation with numerous community partners, including hospitals, birth centers, doulas, and nurse educators. Presentation topics covered doula scope of practice, training opportunities for potential students, service to the underserved communities in Baton Rouge, and the possibility of implementing a community doula program in the area.

## **ADVOCACY**

2026 Capitol Women's Wellness Day. Louisiana State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA. Attended for advocacy and recognition of Mary's Hands Network's work in maternal health; engaged in conversations with the Mayor of Baton Rouge, the Louisiana Surgeon General, and the Louisiana Department for Women's Health. May 2026.

## **GRANTS**

2026 *Awarded*: American Heart Association - Postpartum Systems of Care Initiative \$10,000

2026 *Awarded*: Louisiana Blue Foundation- Capacity building grant recipient. \$150,000

2026 *Awarded*: Rotary Club of Baton Rouge Foundation \$10,000

2025-2027 *Awarded*: Huey Angelina Wilson Foundation- Capacity building institute and ENGAGE grant recipient \$150,000

2025-2026 *Awarded*: Louisiana Blue Foundation- Capacity building grant recipient. \$100,000

2024 *Awarded:* Louisiana Healthcare Connections Sustainability Program Grant. \$52,000

2025 *Awarded: Principal Investigator / Project Lead – Mary’s Hands Network.* Expand a hospital-integrated, community-based doula care model in South Louisiana. This initiative includes training 50 doulas—featuring the state’s first fully Spanish-language cohort—developing a hybrid learning platform for rural outreach, strengthening maternal health infrastructure, and piloting a replicable on-call doula program in partnership with Baton Rouge General. The project emphasizes sustainable workforce development, cultural and linguistic access, and improved maternal health outcomes for underserved communities.

2025 *Awarded:* American Heart Association - Postpartum Systems of Care Initiative \$10,000

2025 *Awarded:* Pennington Family Foundation. \$10,000

2024-2025 *Awarded:* Huey Angelina Wilson Foundation- Capacity building institute and EMPOWER grant recipient. \$15,000

2024 *Awarded:* Keller Family Foundation - Unrestricted funds for doula program and network capacity building. \$10,000

2024 *Awarded:* Louisiana Healthcare Connections Pilot Program Grant. MHN partnered with Louisiana Healthcare Connections in 2023 to expand its doula network into Lafayette and New Orleans. This funding facilitated volunteer training, community outreach, and the implementation of culturally competent doula services in underserved areas. \$52,000

2023 *Awarded:* Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation - New Horizons Grant. Mary’s Hands Network (MHN) received the New Horizon Grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Louisiana Foundation in 2023 to advance its mission of addressing maternal health disparities. The grant supported the launch of MHN’s hybrid doula training program, expanded trauma-informed care and postpartum services, and enhanced data collection efforts to drive evidence-based advocacy and program improvements. \$25,000

2023 *Awarded:* Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) aims to increase nursing student enrollment by implementing innovative nursing education tracks and LPN to ASN bridge programs to address the healthcare workforce crisis. These programs will build on BRCC's existing relationship with EBR Parish High Schools and the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady of Health Systems. The grant will also promote equity and inclusion by reducing the financial burden of professional healthcare education programs for dually qualified individuals using dual enrollment and apprenticeship models.

2022 *Awarded:* Louisiana Workforce Commission – Incumbent Worker Training Program. Developed a Medical Assistant to Licensed Practical Nurse fast track program implemented with the Baton Rouge Clinic. A total of 25 Baton Rouge Medical Assistants were chosen to participate in this 18-month MA to LPN fully grant-funded program.

## LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATIONS

2025 - Present	Louisiana Doula Registry
2025 - Present	Postpartum Support International Perinatal Mental Health Certified Specialties: Adolescent, Minority, Bereavement, and Loss
2024 - Present	Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners Credential # L-317004
2023 - Present	International Childbirth Education Association (ICEA) ICEA Certified Professional Birth Doula ICEA Certified Professional Childbirth Educator ICEA Approved Instructor
2022 - Present	Inpatient Obstetric Nursing –RN Certification National Certification Corporations NCC ID: 104889193
2017 - Present	Louisiana Nurse Licensure (Multi-State) License # RN154801, Renewal 01/31/2028
2017 - Present	American Academy of Pediatrics Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) Provider
2021 - Present	American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) Instructor & Provider Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Instructor & Provider Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) Instructor & Provider

## PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

2023	Nursing Education Scholarship Award National League of Nursing Award and Scholarship
2022	Love of Learning Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Award and Scholarship
2021	Louisiana State Board of Nursing Nightingale Awards Nurse Educator of the Year Nominee
2018 –	Daisy Award Foundation
2020	Four-Time Nominee
2017	Baton Rouge General Medical Center Rookie of the Year Nominee

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2025 - Present	Rotary Club of Baton Rouge
2023 – Present	ICEA International Childbirth Education Association Professional Member, Doula, Trainer, and Board Member
2012 – 2023	DONA Doulas of North America Professional Membership
2022 – Present	AWHONN Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses Professional Membership
2021 – Present	Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing
2021 – 2022	Student Nurses Association Faculty Advisor
2020 – Present	Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society
2018 – 2020	Junior League of Baton Rouge
2017 – Present	National League for Nursing