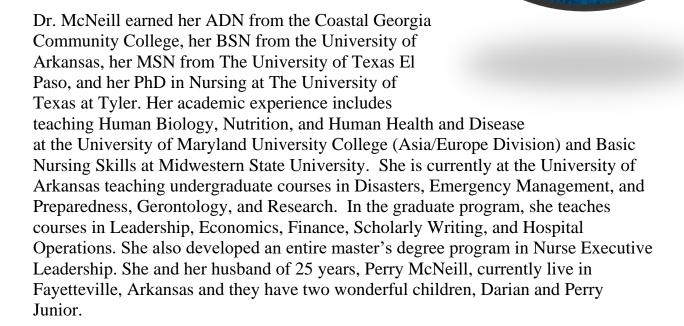
## **Inaugural Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient**

Congratulations to **Dr. Charleen C. McNeill, PhD, RN**, the inaugural recipient of the Outstanding Nursing Alumni Award. Dr. McNeill grew up in Detroit, Michigan and Clarence, Iowa. After graduating high school, she moved to California, joined the U.S. Army, and proudly served for 13 years, starting in 1989. Dr. McNeill was the first female selected to be in a combat arms occupational specialty, the 14J Air Defense Early Warning System. One must be able to multi-task and perform under pressure in this specialty and Dr. McNeill carried these skills over to her extensive nursing career.



One of Dr. McNeill's nominators noted, "She sets goals and achieves them. She does this by accurate assessment of needs. Then she fearlessly approaches the right expert, gathers the right resources, and then will work hard at achieving success." Dr. McNeill's experience in emergency preparedness, in the military and in nursing, has led to her latest endeavor that is revolutionizing the way the State of Arkansas prepares the community for disasters. Her emergency preparedness module is training agents across the state, who then teach citizens across the state how to improve health outcomes in the wake of disaster, especially in communities most at risk. We are so proud of Dr. McNeill, inaugural recipient of the School of Nursing Outstanding Alumni Award!