C. Kim Stokes, MHS, is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies. Mrs. Stokes currently serves as the Director of Clinical Education. She completed her MHS at Duke University in 2003 and is also a 2003 graduate of the ECU PA Program. Being a native of a small town in the Blue Ridge Mountains, she has a strong desire to train excellent medical providers, in the hopes they will consider practicing in rural areas. Upon joining the faculty in 2012, she brings almost 10 years of clinical experience in a variety of backgrounds, including: primary care, urgent care, occupational health and surgical oncology. She has strong interests in Women’s Health, Rural Health and Geriatrics and is a HRSA Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program grant collaborator with ECU College of Nursing and Brody School of Medicine. She currently practices family medicine and geriatrics. Research interests include interprofessional education and simulation experiences.

What do you like best about working at ECU?

Feeling like I’m contributing to the next generation of healthcare providers. It was hard leaving full time clinical practice as a Physician Assistant to come to academia, because I felt like I did my best to work with integrity and excellence, to do the best by my patients. But I quickly realized in this faculty role, I have the potential to influence 35 students a year to be just as committed to those patients, and that is very rewarding.

What do you find most exciting about your research and its potential?

The potential ability to transform how we educate our medical providers and how this can generate better patient outcomes. Have you ever taken time to speak with a patient with comorbidities who goes to a medical office? They many times leave confused, frustrated, referred somewhere else and unsure of where to go or what to do next (or unsure why they are supposed to be implementing changes in medicines, lifestyle, etc). It excites me that I can help them feel better cared for, listened to, and educated. This is especially important in primary care. We have a lot of aging rural North Carolinians out there!

What excites you about teaching?

When we find an innovative way to make the material "stick" and when we find a way to do that efficiently.

What do you hope students take away from their experiences from working with you on your research?

That there are more people in this team of providers than just themselves. They are not the only person who can carry the burden of patient care. There are PAs, NPs, MDs who can all carry that overall burden together, and there are nurses and allied health professionals who can also support the patient/family
to make this team work more efficiently. Also, I hope they can appreciate EVERY member of the healthcare team from the nursing assistants cleaning up patients to the CEO of the hospital system. Each person in this team is important. Each plays a part that, if missing, would result in poor outcomes. Each person needs to be respected and heard. I think this boils down to respect, communication, integrity, shared-responsibility and mutual support.

**What is your favorite teaching or research moment?**

My favorite moment(s) have to be post-interprofessional experiences when the students come to me and say, "That was really eye opening...", "I never considered...", "They asked the same questions we did..."or "I want to know more about this..." When they see things from a new perspective and begin to desire personal involvement in the cause, I feel like we’re really onto something.