

Salute to Nurse Educators

[VIDEO TRANSCRIPT – May 20, 2022]

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I always knew I wanted to be a nurse. So that was the one thing about that I just knew that was the passion that I had growing up.

So my nursing pattern or pathway was inspired, whereas my educational pathway was just sort of something I always wanted to do. I loved teaching or the idea of teaching, and somehow I was just able to bring those two together.

It started out with a love of cardiac rhythms and therefore CPR. So I taught CPR and then I taught ACLs and then I thought, well, I could orient people and teach tele so I did all of that just in the hospital setting. And people kept telling me, you should just go teach nursing. Just go teach nursing.

You know, teaching is very different than practice. And I realized that there was an art to teaching and really connecting with your students and guiding them along the way, which is why I ended up going back for a nurse educator degree and continuing my studies even now.

Education gives me joy. I love helping people get better. I love learning and collectively moving forward. So when an opportunity came available to become a full time educator, you know, it was just a wonderful switch. And I feel like it was definitely the right switch. I loved my clinical practice and now my identity sort of is different because I'm not that clinician any longer, but I'm the educator and I think that that's, you know a very happy place for me.

I think the opportunity to work with amazing colleagues, to help develop students to be nurses in the profession, academic practice partnerships, to work with families in the community, I think all of it makes it very special to be a nurse.

I also like to work with those that have challenges. It could be language, psychosocial and to remove those barriers, to help them to acquire that knowledge is very rewarding.

My biggest reward is empowering individuals that they can do what they want to do and that they can reach their goals.

Watching as a student gains that confidence, but then also they make that connection and it's like, oh, it's that aha moment. And that in itself is my biggest reward.

I also believe as educators, we remain connected to our purpose to serve others. And by teaching the students, we're still contributing to high quality, safe patient care. And that remains central to my role as an educator and not losing sight of I want to train people that will one day take great care of me and who are able to take care of my ten year old daughter in the midst of a crisis.

My biggest reward has been just that feeling I get when I see the students eyes light up.

My path to nursing education was really to give back to our profession.

Being able to help faculty develop and help faculty feel empowered so that they can do more work with their students is the biggest reward so far, because happy faculty means good outcomes for our students.

To nurse is to teach, so I like teaching. So it just was a natural progression of my career.

When I go and I teach a classroom of nurses, I've got 30 nurses who will go out and take care of that many patients. Just think of the impact every educator makes, and that's really making a difference in this world.

So I've taught, I think the last by my last math I've taught over 2000 nurse practitioners or nurse midwives that are out there you know, delivering babies, peaceful deaths, improving the mental health of their patients. So, you know, that's the, the beauty of teaching is, you know, is you're impacting future generations. So, I always apologize to my students because they always say they hear me screaming at them in the back of their mind. So I have to apologize that I'm there. But in some ways I don't apologize because if I was to die tomorrow, I live on in those 2000 people.

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