



American Board of Nursing Specialties

*Promoting Excellence in Nursing Certification*

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## Memorandum

To: ABNS Board of Directors

From: Bob Blackwood  
ABNS Awards and Recognition Committee Chair

Date: February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Subj: Nursing Certification Advocacy Award  
Janel Parker President's Award

The Awards and Recognition Committee is pleased to present the results of our review of the Nursing Certification Advocacy Award applications and the Janel Parker President's Award nomination.

### **Nursing Certification Advocacy Award**

We received two completed applications, which is equal to the submissions received in 2017 but a significant decrease from previous years (2015=13, 2016=11). Perhaps a review of the call for nominations process is in order. The committee's suggestion is to distribute the call for nominations earlier in the year so not to compete with busy holiday schedules. Sending email reminders, if not done already, to the contact list might prove effective in garnering more applications.

With that said, the committee finds the review of applications a very gratifying experience because we are able to see the wonderful and creative initiatives that organizations are doing to promote nursing certification and professional development. We are pleased to present the 2018 Nursing Certification Advocacy Award recipient and one honorable mention.

### **Recommended 2018 Award Recipient**

**The ABNS awards committee is proud to recommend receipt of the Nursing Certification Advocacy award to the University of North Carolina (UNC) Hospitals.**

UNC Hospitals has a strong commitment to nursing certification at all levels of the organization. UNC Nursing managers serve as certification champions for their respective areas by achieving a 100% certification rate.

The Awards Committee was further impressed with the level of educational, organizational, and financial support provided those individual seeking specialty certifications. The following are examples of all three facets of support provided by UNC Hospitals:

- Educational support: The creation of a Certification lending library in response to survey feedback that identified the cost of study materials as a significant barrier to certification. The library offers over 160 resources covering 20 specialty certification exams. UNC hospitals has invested over \$9,000 pin support dollars for the library as they add more resources each year.
- Organizational support: During each session of Nursing Orientation, for all hospital employees, UNC's Nursing Certification Committee dedicates time to discuss the value of certification, and how new employees can take advantage of the organization's willingness to support their certification journey. Content includes reimbursement, use of the certification library, on-site review courses, and recognition for certified nurses. Members of the Certification Committee use a Power Point presentation and script to present, and rotate so that new employees engage with committee members, many of whom are clinical nurses.

Additionally, UNC Hospitals hold an annual luncheon, during the week of Certified Nurses Day, to celebrate and share in the certification journey. At a recent event, UNC Hospitals invited professionally certified participants to share their perceptions of their certification journey, and asked physicians to comment on their perception of certified nurses. The resulting three minute "Get Certified!" video features fourteen employees, primarily clinical nurses, describing the value of certification. This video is posted on the Nursing Intranet, and is part of the Nursing Orientation presentation on certification. [What's the Value of Nursing Certification](#) video.

- Financial support: UNC Hospitals not only fully reimburses test fees for passing candidates, and provide education days for those attending review courses, they also provide 100% reimbursement of member rate recertification costs. To include paid time off for attending continuing education courses.

## **Honorable Mention**

In addition to the Nursing Certification Advocacy Award recipient, the committee selected the following organization for an Honorable Mention distinction because of its high level of support for nursing certification.

## **Orange Regional Medical Center**

### **Janel Parker President's Award**

#### **2018 Award Recipient**

ABNS did not receive an application/nomination for the Janel Parker Lifetime Achievement award in 2018.