



Valley Children's Healthcare

# Nurse of the Year 2017

## Excellence in Education

**Candace Biberston, MSN, RN, CPN**

Candace's journey in education began prior to holding an official educator role. While in nursing school, she spent a month in Ecuador serving in rural clinics, teaching subjects like venereal diseases, asthma, and clean water. She also performed HIV testing and administered vaccinations. In Kenya, Candace participated in mission work teaching hygiene, first aid, and nutrition to village health workers. There she built curriculum for the healthcare workers, and performed screening and treatment for the villagers with a village physician.

An area of special interest to Candace is simulation. She is very proficient in the use of high-fidelity simulation in education. She is well trained in the writing of scenarios, mannequin operation, and debriefing. Along with colleagues, Candace introduced simulation as an education modality into various courses at the Hospital, engaging the learner in a safe and realistic experience. This team pioneered interprofessional education utilizing high-fidelity simulation in training medical residents, nursing students, and pharmacy residents together in clinical scenarios.

Candace assisted in the facilitation of two annual Sim Boot-Camps for UCSF Residency, providing the only pediatric clinical scenario experience at the event for nearly one hundred residents. With this group, Candace has co-presented poster presentations at a national level (Interprofessional Simulation in Focused Pediatric Resuscitation, Magic in Teaching, 2013), and an international level (Use of High Fidelity Simulation in an Interdisciplinary Preceptor Program, International Meeting for Simulation in Healthcare, 2014).

Not one to be stagnant in a changing environment, Candace chartered a course of new direction for the Professional Development Council, giving bedside staff a solidified purpose and voice in the oversight of the Preceptor Development, Certification Preparation, Scholarships, Academic Progression, and Clinical Advancement Program, while streamlining house-wide education requests. She continues to present innovative ideas for others by participating on the council as a support resource.

Other committees Candace has participated in include: Past President-Elect and President of Educators of Central California Health Organizations (ECCHO), Member of Association for Nursing Professional Development, Life Member of National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Past Director on the Board of Directors for the National Student Nurses Association, and Past Convention Director for the Board of Directors of the Utah Student Nurses' Association, coordinating the curriculum, speakers, and vendors for their annual convention in 2008, which included her own podium presentation on understanding policies.

As a co-coordinator, Candace helped lead an interactive preceptor course for nursing and ancillary staff members, as well as Acute Care Core. Just prior to moving into the Clinical Education Specialist role, Candace led a group to develop a new cache of resources on various equipment and procedures called "Just-In-Time" (JIT) teaching sheets. These sheets are available for staff to access online 24/7. The JIT sheets list quick, policy-based instructions along with visual content to serve a variety of learners.

Through all of this, Candace's work for the community we serve, and her passion for progressing in the profession has not stopped. Candace recently developed a monthly healthcare-based curriculum for Fresno First staff, women, and families in the CalWORKs project. This program is dedicated to helping women through the challenges of recovery from alcohol and drug addiction, as well as co-occurring mental health issues. Curriculum topics include childhood disease, infection prevention and dietary needs. Her passion for progressing in the profession of nursing has led her to embark in a Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program in April.

**We thank Candace Biberston for her outpouring of new ideas and innovations to further educate Hospital employees and the community.**

**Congratulations on being the Valley Children's Nurse of the Year 2017 – Excellence in Education.**