

Nomination for the Excellence in Neuroscience Education Award

I am honored to nominate an extraordinary Clinical Educator in our Neuroscience unit for the Excellence in Neuroscience Education Award. This nurse exemplifies everything this award represents. She is an outstanding candidate who exemplifies innovation, compassion, and mentorship, along with a steadfast commitment to educating and inspiring others in neuroscience nursing.

A nurturing and supportive presence, this educator brings a calm, mothering spirit to every interaction whether with new graduate nurses, seasoned staff, patients, or families. Her ability to connect on a deeply human level, while delivering complex and specialized content, has made her an irreplaceable foundation of our neuroscience team. Her passion for neuroscience is not only evident but also contagious. She is a tireless advocate for education in this specialty and continuously seeks ways to expand knowledge and improve patient care.

One of her most impactful contributions has been the development of a Neuroscience Fundamentals Course specifically designed for new graduate nurses. Recognizing the need for a strong foundation in this highly specialized field, she created this course to equip novice nurses with the essential skills and knowledge needed to confidently care for neuroscience patients. The course emphasizes core concepts such as neurological assessment and disease-specific care strategies. As a result, new graduates are able to hit the ground running by feeling more prepared, supported, and capable on the unit. This initiative has significantly optimized the orientation experience, helping nurses' transition more smoothly into practice and grow into confident, specialized neuroscience nurses. Staff consistently report increased confidence, improved clinical judgment, and a deeper understanding of their role in providing high-quality neuro care.

Her commitment to growth extends well beyond new graduate education. She fosters lifelong learning among nurses at all experience levels. She leads an ongoing "Brain Bites" education series, which brings together specialists to present current and emerging topics in neuroscience. These sessions have become highly anticipated and are consistently rated among the most valuable learning opportunities within our multidisciplinary team. They've directly contributed to practice improvements and sparked several quality initiatives led by bedside staff.

She was also a key leader in the implementation of our Clinical Champion Program. This program brings an innovative approach to education that supports both novice and expert nurses through multidimensional learning. This program is comprised of fifteen-minute huddles that are facilitated quarterly by the Clinical Champions, who are experienced bedside nurses trained to deliver content and mentor peers. These brief didactic reviews are combined with hands-on skills practice, encouraging participation without leaving patient care areas. Educational topics are selected based on knowledge gaps, staff requests, and skill reinforcement needs. The

development of this program fosters a culture of peer-to-peer learning, mentorship, and engagement.

Her contributions were equally vital in preparing the team for the transition into our new neuro-focused clinical space. She helped lead the development of immersive “Day in the Life” simulation scenarios which were carefully designed, multidisciplinary training exercises that replicated real-life patient care situations. These simulations allowed staff to practice navigating the new environment, refine workflows, and strengthen interdisciplinary communication before the unit even opened. This collaborative, hands-on approach not only increased team confidence but also ensured enhanced patient safety from day one in the new space.

This clinical educator is a champion for multidisciplinary communication, building bridges between nursing and other specialties. Her leadership in team cohesion was evident in her key role guiding a bedside staff-led poster at the AANN 2025 Conference, which showcased strategies to improve clinical outcomes. This most recent example reflects her ongoing contributions across numerous professional forums, including those focused on rare and complex neurological conditions

Her dedication extends beyond the walls of the hospital. She has participated in outreach initiatives that include educating school nurses and community support groups on critical neuroscience topics such as seizure first aid and chronic neurological conditions. One of her most innovative projects includes the early development of a family epilepsy education program, which will use interactive tools such as a programmable seizure simulation device to teach families how to recognize and respond to seizures with confidence.

What sets her apart most is her natural ability to mentor others. She embodies the role of guide, cheerleader, and teacher. Her open-door policy, empathetic listening, and thoughtful guidance have supported countless nurses throughout their professional journeys. Whether helping someone work toward their certification, coaching a new preceptor, or offering comfort after a difficult shift. This clinical educator always leads with heart. Her work uplifts individuals, strengthens teams, and elevates the care we deliver to our neuroscience patients. I can think of no one more deserving of the Excellence in Neuroscience Education Award.