

The Value of Certification

Bette Case Di Leonardi, PhD, RN-BC addressed the luncheon guests on the Value of Certification. Dr. Di Leonardi served two terms on the HPCC board and currently represents HPCC on the Accreditation Board for Nursing Specialty Certification (ABSNC). ABSNC accredits organizations such as HPCC which grant specialty nursing certifications and other recognitions.

After recognizing certificants who hold each of the HPCC credentials, she encouraged those not yet certified to seek mentors and resources from among HPCC-certified individuals to aid them in achieving certification.

She described a meeting, *A National Convening: The Value of Certification, Building the Business Case for Certification* which took place in Las Vegas, NV in March 2016. At this meeting, interprofessional attendees, including representatives of nursing, radiology, pharmacy, occupational therapy, dietetics, and physicians, heard nationally recognized researchers describe the current state of research in credentialing. Participants met in focus groups over a two-day period to identify priorities for certification research. Participants identified as priorities conducting research to provide evidence that:

- Certification improves the recruitment and retention of qualified nurses, enhances their employability and potential job prospects.
- Certification is recognized as validation of knowledge in the specialty.
- Certification improves organizational culture of healthcare delivery, job satisfaction, empowerment, and confidence.
- Certification advances safety, improves processes of care, and improves quality of care.

Dr. Di Leonardi challenged attendees to think about what they might do to advance these priorities within their own organizations and with their colleagues. She encouraged all HPCC certificants to assist others in achieving certification and to create opportunities to advocate for certification.

She shared information about states which accept certification, or education leading to certification, in lieu of continuing education requirements for RN relicensure. She encouraged attendees to visit the websites of their state boards of nursing for the most up-to-date information.

She explained the elimination of the testing option for recertification in the credentials: ACHPN®, CHPN®, and CHPPN ®. She noted that ACHPN®s have never had the option of recertifying by examination. The elimination of the testing option is intended to encourage RN certificants to advocate for advancing expert care in serious illness with professional and lay groups in podium and poster presentations and in publications. Recognizing that all certificants may not have opportunities to present or publish, certificants may substitute 20 additional continuing education points for professional contributions and scholarly accomplishments.

She called attendees' attention to the two 2016 Joint Position Papers of HPNA-HPNF-HPCC which were placed at each seat. She reminded attendees of the certification scholarships supported by HPNF.

In conclusion, she encouraged certificants to celebrate Certified Nurses Day on March 19, 2017 by making a plan to advocate for certification.