



Who is a key person who supported you in becoming a gerontological nurse educator?

Dr. Christine Mueller

What motivated you to become a gerontological nurse educator?

I became interested in this role when I was assigned to teach clinical in a LTC setting. I had only worked as an RN in acute care so I initially "freaked out" and took some CEU courses on the care of the older adult to prepare for this role as a clinical instructor. I fell in love with the residents and their vast life experiences and enthusiasm for the BSN nursing students who came to their facility every Friday.

Where would you like to see gerontological nursing education to be at in 5 years?

I would like to see more attention paid to the exposure of BSN undergraduate nursing students to the care of older adults in a variety of settings. Students view acute care as more exciting and tend to be enthralled with mother/baby and peds rather than thinking about the value of the older adult. I would like to see a greater emphasis in the various areas (other than acute care) of clinical education (public health, community nursing, mental health, transitional and LTC, etc.) to focus on the older adult as an area of expertise and specialization.

Favorite experience as a gerontological nurse expert educator?

Hearing the residents in the LTC clinical setting tell me how much they looked forward to "Maroon and Gold (our school colors) Fridays" when our students were in the clinical setting.



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Key words of wisdom for those nurses interested in becoming a distinguished educator in gerontological nursing education?

Encourage students to consider working with older adults. Demonstrate enthusiasm when discussing the care of older adults. Highlight the variety of areas within nursing where nurses can work with older adults, as students often equate "nursing home" with older adults, which can be a limiting point of view. Highlight how working with older adults can improve/inform one's own personal life and development, as those in this demographic have a wealth of wisdom and experience gained over a lifetime.

About Mary

- Nursing diploma, 1986
- BSN, 1995
- MS (Nursing), 2002
- PhD (Organizational Leadership Policy and Development with a Human Resource Development focus), 2016
- Research/Scholarship focus: Pre-licensure nursing students perceptions of their knowledge and clinical skill abilities.
- Teaching focus: Undergraduate courses on the nursing care of adults and older adults.