



PEDIATRIC NURSING CERTIFICATION BOARD

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PNCB's 2012 CPN® Certification Advocate Award Recipients

GAITHERSBURG, MD (May 16, 2012) – The Pediatric Nursing Certification Board, Inc. (PNCB) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2012 Certified Pediatric Nurse (CPN) Certification Advocate Award. Congratulations to both **Jean Buckley, RN, CPN** of Miami Children's Hospital and **Tracy Lowerre, MS, RN, CPN** of Virginia Commonwealth University Health System in Richmond, for going above and beyond to encourage RNs at their facilities to seek certification. The PNCB presented the winners with their awards during the 2012 Society of Pediatric Nurses Conference Awards Luncheon in Houston, Texas.



Jean Buckley, RN, CPN graduated in 2005 from Florida's Broward College and began her career on Miami Children's Hospital's Renal/Gastroenterology/Endocrinology Unit. After becoming excited about certification at the 2010 SPN conference, Jean began promoting with her local chapter, talked with nurses, and presented to hospital-wide committees. In collaboration with Deborah Hill-Rodriguez, MSN, ARNP, PCNS-BC, Jean presented a poster entitled "Increasing the Percentage: Creative Strategies in Advancing Pediatric National Certification" at the 2011 SPN conference. After learning of PNCB's "No Pass, No Pay" program, she brought this benefit to MCH, created a library of study materials and a fun PowerPoint presentation, and used various other methods to advocate for certification. After its inception at MCH, 100 RNs became certified in less than a year. Her goal is to increase her hospitals' certification percentage from 56% to 70% in 2012 and to share her techniques with other pediatric facilities, thus improving care to the pediatric population throughout the nation.



Tracy Lowerre, MS, RN, CPN, and alumnus CCRN serves as Nurse Clinician at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System. She graduated from Alfred University with a Bachelor of Science in nursing in 1989 and from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Master of Science in nursing leadership and administration in 2010. She began her career in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at VCUHS where she worked for seventeen years. She then transitioned to Acute Care Pediatrics where she developed a passion for certification. She coordinated two on-site exams and brought the "No Pass, No Pay" program to her organization. She incorporates certification into the orientation process by having new employees complete modules from a review book when they begin orientation, and she discusses certification as part of their professional development. Her unit holds one of the highest percentages of certified nurses in the hospital. One of her proudest accomplishments was leading a task force that implemented an additional level to the nursing clinical ladder. This new level added certification as a requirement for professional nursing practice.

Ms. Buckley and Ms. Lowerre are two of over 16,000 Certified Pediatric Nurses (CPNs) in the United States and beyond. The CPN Certification Advocate Award is presented annually to a Certified Pediatric Nurse who demonstrates an impressive commitment to encouraging and supporting certification. The PNCB commends all 2012 nominees for their efforts. Information about the 2013 awards will be posted at www.pncb.org later this year, and we encourage all eligible CPNs to apply.

The Pediatric Nursing Certification Board is the largest independent pediatric nursing certification organization in the country. Today, over 30,000 pediatric nurses and nurse practitioners hold active PNCB certification. For more information, call 888-641-2767 or visit the PNCB website at www.pncb.org.