

Candidate for Nominating Committee

Collyn West, MSN, RN, CNL, PCCN
Director of Nursing, Acute Care
VA Puget Sound Health Care System
Seattle, WA



Experience and Activities

AACN Commitment and Involvement, 2021-present

Includes ways in which the candidate integrated the mission and work of AACN into their current role and practice. Local and national volunteer activities are listed, if applicable.

- Course coordinator, “AACN Essentials of ECG and Dysrhythmia Monitoring,” 2020-present
- Unit certification champion, 2019-present
- AACN Mountain to Sound Chapter
 - Member, Education Committee, 2011-present
 - Member, 2010-present
 - President-elect, 2024
- PCCN Score Evaluation Committee, 2023
- PCCN Virtual Item Review Committee, 2023
- NTI Program Planning Committee, 2022

Key Professional Activities Outside AACN, 2021-present

Includes involvement with other professional organizations, teaching and/or speaking engagements

- Chair, Facility Nursing Professional Standards Board/Nurse Qualification Standards Station Advisory Committee, 2012-present
- Consultant, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska (VISN 20) VA Nursing Professional Standards Board/Nurse Qualification Standards, 2021-present
- Member, National ICU/Med-Surg Field Advisory Committee, 2020-present
- Wu C, O’Keeffe C, Sanford J, et al. Simple signature/countersignature shared-accountability quality improvement initiative to improve reliability of blood sample collection: an essential clinical task. *BMJ Open Qual.* 2022;11(3):e001765. <https://bmjopenquality.bmj.com/content/11/3/e001765>
- Co-presenter, “Connecting Microsystems Through Networking: Leveraging Relationships During a Pandemic and Beyond,” Clinical Nurse Leader Summit, 2021

Issues Statement

One key issue affecting acute and critical care nursing today that is most concerning to me is the amount of experience that is leaving the bedside as nurses retire or transition into a new career. In my experience, there are fewer and fewer nurses that I interview that plan to stay at the bedside as part of their five-year career goal, which is not very much time to become an experienced nurse that is able to make improvements in their work environment.

During a meeting with supervisors and staff from multiple units, the staff from my unit and I were asked what we are doing on our unit to promote our healthy work environment. One of the night shift nurses said they help each other out, and the experienced nurses train the new nurses so they also jump in and help the team. This simple answer resonated with me and led me to start thinking about how a healthy work environment needs staff that are committed to continuous improvement and embracing change.

Keeping experienced nurses at the bedside will help create a culture of continuous improvement and support, decreasing burnout, and promoting positive patient outcomes. I would like to see AACN continue to champion the Healthy Work Environment standards and further commit to addressing the nursing shortage. Keeping nurses in the nursing profession is essential to further progress and integrating lessons from the past to ensure this community of exceptional nurses is able to continue to provide excellent care.