

How AACN CSI Academy Changed My Practice

How can bedside nurses positively impact patient and fiscal outcomes? Six nurses can tell you.

They recently completed unit-based change initiatives as participants in AACN Clinical Scene Investigator (CSI) Academy, a national nurse leadership and innovation training program. Their most significant take away: Nurse-led projects have significant impact.

"It was amazing to see the effects of a nurse-driven project," says Dawn Back, staff nurse at Franciscan St. Francis Health, Indianapolis. "The best moments have been sharing our project with others at the AACN Innovation Conference, our hospital-wide nursing showcase and in a poster at the NDNQI quality conference."

Tori Hamilton-Kelly, patient care coordinator at Franciscan St. Francis, notes, "Unexpected outcomes include recognition of how much a unit-based project can impact our organization and patient care." Her CSI team's project cut patient falls in half and saved \$230,000.


Jennifer LeBlanc, CNIII at Duke Raleigh Hospital, Raleigh, N.C., helped implement early progressive mobility. "The projected annual financial impact of greater than \$1 million wowed us all. The qualitative cascade among peers, hospital leadership and outside individuals was even more potent," she says.

For her colleague Kerrie Klepfer, "Seeing the substantial positive effect on our patients is what it's all about — starting with our first real 'test of change' patient, the first one to walk around the ICU while intubated. Since then, we've had many patients out of bed who likely would have remained on bed rest much longer."

CSI Academy participants also applaud the opportunities for collaboration, synergy and mutual understanding.

"The team experience was invaluable and reflected our strengths," says Erica Edwards, attending nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Boston, whose project promoted the ABCDE bundle to reduce patient ventilator time. Referring to the seven Boston-area teams, she adds, "We worked well together and learned about the unique patient populations in the different ICUs and the knowledgeable nurses who care for them."

Norine O'Malley-Simmler, staff nurse at MGH, says, "Our efforts resulted in collaboration and relationship-building among critical care nurses from Boston institutions."

Learn more about these change initiatives in the CSI Academy Innovation Database, at www.aacn.org/csi. Next month these leaders will discuss how their initiatives influence practice beyond their units. 

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