



**CIRCLE  
OF EXCELLENCE 2026**



**Daisy Samonte**  
**Circle of Excellence**

Daisy Samonte is a nursing professional development practitioner at UCLA Center for Nursing Excellence in Los Angeles. A leader in critical care education and quality improvement, Daisy leverages 20-plus years of cardiac nursing expertise to strengthen

clinical competence and organizational excellence. A clinical nurse III in the Cardiothoracic ICU, she designed the innovative EKG Bootcamp, enhanced staff rhythm recognition accuracy, and contributed to the unit sustaining three consecutive gold-level Beacon Awards. Her commitment to education extends to academia. Her work as a clinical instructor at Ventura College helped achieve a 100% NCLEX pass rate for four semesters. As president of the AACN Chapter at UCLA, she scaled content by launching EKG webinars that educated over 100 nurses and generated \$5,000 in revenue. Daisy's dedication to the profession is validated by her national presentations at NTI, reaching over 1,200 attendees.