



**CIRCLE
OF EXCELLENCE 2025**



Mary O. Lawanson-Nichols
Circle of Excellence

Mary Lawanson-Nichols is a clinical nurse specialist at UCLA - Santa Monica Medical Center in California. Mary is an exceptional nurse leader dedicated to improving bedside care and patient outcomes. She helps staff identify and fix barriers at the bedside through role

modeling, mentoring and recognition. Mary led an initiative to address CLABSI prevention, resulting in a decrease from six infections in 2022 to zero by the end of 2023. She is one of the original members of the AACN Chapter at UCLA (chartered 2010) and has contributed to its success. The chapter has received more than 10 Circle of Excellence awards. Mary regularly speaks to UCLA School of Nursing students about acute and critical care nursing. In recognition of her transformative leadership, the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists awarded her the Mentor of the Year Award in 2024.