

## **Shaping Confident, Compassionate Nurses through Innovative Instruction as a Nurse Educator**

My favorite part of nursing school was not just learning clinical skills but also the insightful instruction of my professors. They imparted so much experiential wisdom beyond what textbooks contained.

I hoped to one day influence the next generation of nurses similarly. After practicing in an ICU for several years post-graduation, I decided to pursue my MSN in nursing education. I began teaching clinical rotations and nursing fundamentals labs. This allowed me to share practical knowledge from years at patients' bedsides.

Seeing techniques click for students was incredibly gratifying. I also noticed limitations in the current curriculum that didn't capture modern healthcare environments. Soon, I proposed the development of new elective courses.

I researched evidence-based practices, incorporated emerging technologies, and emphasized hands-on learning. Positive course evaluations reflected students' engagement with these innovative approaches.

Today, I split my time between teaching advanced critical care nursing concepts and working per diem in an ICU. Maintaining competency at patients' bedsides infuses my instruction with relevant examples. My favorite moments are running into former students, now compassionate and highly skilled nurses, and realizing I contributed to their journeys.

I aim to pursue a Doctorate in Nursing Practice and teach at the graduate level. I also aim to publish my curriculum development research. Though it requires a balance of various responsibilities, I cannot imagine a more rewarding career than shaping future generations of exceptional nurses.

