

Lori Buckingham, RN, at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is the epitome of excellence in bedside nursing care in the CVICU, and she is highly deserving of being awarded the 2022 Inaugural PCICS Bedside Nursing Award. She is solely committed to spending all of her clinical time providing direct bedside patient care to congenital heart disease patients, and she has been in practice for nearly fourteen years since July 14, 2008.

Lori is highly regarded first and foremost as an expert clinician. She is a quiet, calm, and incredibly efficient caretaker for our most complex and critically ill patients. She has an extremely high emotional and social IQ which enables her to meet the needs of her patients, families, and other team members with consummate poise and skill. Primarily working nightshift, Lori serves as one of our main preceptors/mentors for newer nurses learning to take care of post op and other high acuity patients. She maintains a positive and calm demeanor to allow the nurse orientee to feel comfortable to process thoughts, communicate effectively, and advance clinical skills. Lori provides feedback in a timely and professional manner in a way that promotes psychological safety with her orientees and is geared towards their development. Lori takes the time and efforts to develop relationships with her patients and their family. When working nightshift she often communicates with families in a way that makes them feel comfortable enough to leave the bedside for rest and self-care because they know Lori is providing excellent care and will maintain open communication. Lori has a strong commitment to always improving her clinical practice. She has embraced local upgrades in information technologies and has volunteered to be a Super User for our unit to help other nursing teammates during transitions to new systems.

Lori's additional skillsets have come shining through in helping adapt to the stresses that nursing organizations everywhere are having with the challenges of turnover, recruitment, and retention. She is as accomplished in taking care of her nursing teammates as she is of critically ill patients. Lori has taken on additional work to manage vacation sign up for the Cardiac ICU Nursing staff, and she works hard to make sure all staff receive time off during peak vacation times and advocates to nursing leadership to ensure staff needs are being optimally met. She takes great pride in her care of her patients, and she has readily accepted additional responsibilities to her core role as a bedside nurse. As noted above, she frequently also functions as preceptor, clinical resource nurse, and mentor to other members of our ever-growing bedside nursing team.