

Dear PCICS Bedside Nursing Award Committee,

I write in support of this bedside nurse as a nomination for the PCICS Bedside Nurse Award. This nurse is a current full time night shift nurse with over 34 years of dedication to her patients. This nominee is without a doubt one of the greatest nurses to have entered the profession of Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care nursing let alone bedside nursing. The level of knowledge and skill set she has gained over her many dedicated years to the profession is world class. She has received multiple Daisy awards for her spectacular care. She was the recipient of our hospital's nursing week award for exemplary patient care. She was also featured on a PCICS podcast where she spoke about her over 30 years of experience caring for critically ill patients all as a bedside nurse.

This nominee almost always cares for the most critical patients on our unit, as the bedside nurse she can always speak to each unique patient situation and provide thoughtful recommendations to best advocate for her patients. She is a highly respected and valued part of our nursing staff by fellow nurses and physicians as her unfaltering devotion is to provide the finest patient care to our very fragile and complex patient population. During rounds this nominee commands the respect of everyone in attendance as she meticulously presents her patient and details clinical changes so that the entire medical team can collaborate to develop a plan of care best suited for the patient. Attendings refer to this nurse as "the boss" and look to her for advice on patient management. With her expertise she can speak to expected clinical trajectories and is a strong advocate for what is in the best interest of each patient. Her patient and family interaction is unmatched, she is one of the most compassionate and caring individuals and it is always on display as she thoroughly talks them through the plan of care, each and every medical device and what is to be expected all while creating a light and friendly atmosphere in a high stress environment. I have personally witnessed her spend hours of a shift discussing the plan of care and answering questions, as she effortlessly multitasks patient care, to ensure that the family fully understands everything. One memorable example of her dedication to exceptional patient and family care is on 4th of July she organized and moved every single patient possible to one side of the unit so that they could see the fireworks on the National Mall. She shines in all aspects of the art of nursing but specifically patient and family interaction. This nominee spent 3 hours untangling hair of a teenage patient while singing and teaching her orientee about post-operative care.

Not only is the nominee a wealth of knowledge when it comes to her clinical judgment and skills for patients, she is the ultimate resource and teacher to every single co-worker. Over the years she has precepted and mentored countless nurses and helped grow their confidence and practice as a bedside nurse. She is the nurse that everyone goes to asking for help or with questions because you know she has the answer. The idea of "nurses eat their young" has never been the mentality or atmosphere that this nurse creates on the unit. Her deeply introspective approach to championing self-care has provoked thoughtful engagement and committee development to fill a gap in care she saw for her team members. She has the impressive ability to make everyone feel seen and valued and creates the environment where everyone's strengths have the room to grow and flourish. While she has precepted nurses on the unit, her function as an unofficial preceptor or mentor is where this nurse truly shines. She texts nurses to give them kudos for work well done or to check in after a rough shift. This nurse provides peer reviews to nurses on our unit, she has such grace in each coaching session as they review events and a tactful approach to educating nurses on best practice. As well she frequently spearheads unit-based safety challenges to help improve clinical practice and patient care. As a neighbor nurse or clinical resource nurse, she goes out of her way to check in with new nurses and provide one on one education

so that nurses have a better understanding of their patient and the clinical picture. She is the ultimate helping hand, she literally never stops... from helping you admit a patient, to jumping in as a second nurse when a patient is decompensating, lending a hand with any task imaginable, being a second set of eyes and imparting her wisdom, making sure every nurse gets their break (before her own), helping to advocate for each patient, the list goes on. She is equivalent to superwoman. She is a bright, dynamic, and engaging personality who always makes it a point to remember even the smallest of details about her coworkers. She brings logical, thoughtful commentary to situations of self-doubt and contributes positively to the unit energy, which makes her an invaluable member of the CICU. We look to her for guidance as well as reasoned discourse and, as a result, she was an exceptional asset to have in your toughest of situations.

Among being a clinical resource extraordinaire, she is also every nurse on our unit's biggest cheerleader and advocate. This nurse is always there to celebrate your "good catch" or give kudos to a job well done after a tough shift. When she is not cheering you on she is there to cheer you up and she is someone that everyone relies on when they need an ear to listen or a shoulder to cry on. This nurse is always there for you with an open heart and smile on her face as she is just happy to be there for you during a time of need. She provides support to our nurses and acts as an advocate whether that be giving advice or going to bat for them. For example, our unit has a group of younger charge nurses that have been trying to navigate the new role amidst problems with nurse staffing. She has been a steadfast ally to each charge nurse during many difficult conversations and interactions and has stepped in when she felt there was unjust. When noticing common problems and stress that the charge nurses were facing, she took it upon herself to speak to management about her observations and organize a meeting for all the charge nurses to voice their concerns and questions to create a better solution and work environment. Along with that, she is constantly brainstorming ideas to boost unit morale and nurse retention. She always goes the extra mile to make sure her co-workers feel valued and heard as she truly cares them. This nurse is so highly spoken about by all the nurses and providers on our unit as she is someone we all aspire to be. She has made an impact on countless careers of all disciplines. This nominee has traveled to Uganda for mission trips to provide education to nurses and care to patients in a developing country. Her enthusiasm made her the ideal teacher for the nurses across the Atlantic Ocean.

This nominee is THE nurse that you want at your bedside whether you are a nurse, physician or patient/family. If you look up and see this nurse by your side, you know you are well supported and ready for anything that comes your way. Her unwavering ability to provide outstanding care to every patient she encounters is unparalleled to her dedication to support and grow her fellow nurses. She is the epitome of bedside nursing excellence.