

I am honored write this letter of support on behalf of Shauna O'Brien, BSN, RN, CCRN, CCTN, for the PCICS Bedside Nursing Award. I have had the privilege of knowing Shauna since she started as a new graduate nurse in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU) at Boston Children's Hospital in 2008. From the onset, Shauna was motivated to expand her nursing skills and knowledge in order to provide the best care to her patients and families. Her commitment to supporting complex patients and their families through the intensity and challenges associated with critical illness were evident early on in her career. As Shauna grew in her nursing practice, she was nominated for the Daisy award three times, and received the Boston Children's Hospital Best in Care award (2020), a true testament to the impact of her care of patients and families. Among Shauna's greatest strengths are her impeccable clinical judgement and skills, family-centered compassionate care with which she provides her patients and families, and being an approachable resource for staff at all levels.

Shauna advanced her practice independently in addition to completing work-based learning opportunities. In 2019, she completed the training to be a Certified Clinical Transplant Nurse, allowing her to provide related education to interdisciplinary staff within the CICU. She has served on the Boston Children's Hospital Staff Nurse Council, is the co-chair of the Cardiovascular Program Bereavement Committee and Pediatric Transplant Committee. Shauna actively participates in quality improvement initiatives for the CICU Infection Prevention Committee. As a facilitator of learning, she has precepted numerous new nursing staff, teaches many classes for CICU nursing orientation, and provides education and support at the bedside on a daily basis. In the CICU, she serves as a Nursing Team Leader, responsible for professional development and mentorship of a group of several nurses with varying levels of experience. In addition to providing excellent bedside care, Shauna is a permanent charge nurse in the CICU. She provides leadership in all her roles, and is especially passionate about providing high-quality end of life care for our patients and their families. Shauna is recognized as a resource and role model for providing compassionate, holistic family-centered care, and for supporting and mentoring clinical staff during challenging situations. In addition to her many hospital-centered initiatives, Shauna's impact went beyond the bedside to aid the community at large by delivering outreach during the COVID-19 pandemic. She administered vaccines and provided infection prevention education to a local community through town forums and the public school system. Shauna assisted in contact tracing following state certification through MAVEN and the Johns Hopkins Contact Tracing Training Program.

It has been an honor to watch Shauna develop professionally from novice to expert nursing staff. She is an excellent clinician, mentor and colleague who is a well-respected member of the inter-professional team. The impact of her care, dedication to teaching and mentoring colleagues, and compassionate commitment to patients and families, make her deserving of this honor and recognition.