

Lisa Rizzi-Wagner Nomination

There is always a nurse in every unit who is the best at training in a new nurse, always listed as a mentor, always given the hardest patient, or placed in the room where a relationship needs to be mended with a family. In our unit this is Lisa. She has been caring for patients at the bedside longer than many providers have been alive and manages to bring a level of compassion and energy to each work day that is truly impressive.

I first got to know Lisa as a fellow who despite being far more senior always treated me with kindness and respect, but also with a quiet authority that made you listen to every word she spoke. To this day I breathe a sigh of relief when I see a particularly complicated or unstable patient has been paired with her for the day. Our entire team knows that it will be a “no surprises” day as her ability to intervene, adapt and anticipate are legendary. However, I am not nominating her for her personal skill. It is her commitment to mentoring, training and advocating for new nurses that she deserves this award. Her ability to impart her knowledge on how to be firm yet kind, to understand your patient and to advocate for what they need is what most impresses me and my colleagues. Every day when I walk into the ICU I see the legacy that she has brought to our CTICU.