On Creating an Effective Future

In the September 2011 issue of The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing, my editorial described the way to create wise forecasts (Yoder-Wise, 2011). Without proactively planning for the future, we face the reality that someday the "future" we talked about awhile back is now here—whether we wanted it to be or not. The question isn’t, will something happen? The question is, what are we doing to prepare for what will happen next?

Our obligation as people involved with continuing education is to help others be better prepared for the future, even though some days it may feel as if we focus only on the present. Being able to contribute to patients’ well-being by helping others be better prepared to participate in the constantly changing dynamics of healthcare, helping others be better prepared to function in various roles, and helping others plan for their own future are all examples of what we must attend to in order for us to say we are making major contributions.

If you recall The Wise Forecast Model©, you recall the three steps in preparing for the future: learn widely, think wildly, act wisely. The result of using that model is the best course of action to take based on the best thinking, which is based on what you know. Even if we exist within an organization that doesn’t do deliberative planning for the future, nothing prevents us from advancing our own work. And, that has many benefits.

When we learn widely, we enhance what we can do. When we think wildly, we generate different ideas. When we act wisely, we create the future of the profession.

REFERENCE

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