A Tribute to Dr. Diane Billings

In mid-August, the 2015 selection of the American Academy of Nursing’s Living Legends was announced. Living Legend (or “LLs,” as some like to call themselves) is probably the highest distinction a nurse can attain. Being inducted into the American Academy of Nursing is a challenge in itself. One has to have made consistent and distinctive contributions to the profession to become a Fellow. There are fewer than 3,000 Fellows (with the credential FAAN) in the world. If that doesn’t sound impressive, recall that nurses number more than 3 million in the United States alone (Health Resources and Services Administration, 2013)!

Fewer than 100 of the Fellows have been selected to be Living Legends since the program’s inception in 1994. This year, Dr. Diane M. Billings, Associate Editor of the “Teaching Tips” column in The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing (JCEN), is among those to be honored. Dr. Billings joins Signe Skott Cooper, who was an influential leader in continuing education and JCEN Board member who received this distinction in 2003.

The JCEN Editorial Board and staff join together in applauding the tremendous accomplishments of Dr. Billings. Her reach is felt internationally.

The American Academy of Nursing (2015) says this about Diane:

Diane M. Billings, EdD, RN, FAAN, is known for her legendary work to improve how faculty teach and prepare their students to provide safe and high quality care to patients. She has shaped the national agenda for nursing education by developing and testing best practices for teaching; by building capacity for adoption of best practices in teaching through her service to nursing organizations; and in advancing the science of nursing education. (para. 4)

We couldn’t agree more. The work of Dr. Billings and Dr. Karren E. Kowalski, who are co-Associate Editors of “Teaching Tips” (what a team!), is one of the hallmarks of JCEN. Their dedication to making sure the best information is available to prospective and established educators is evident in each issue of the Journal.

Diane, we are so proud to be affiliated with you! Nurses everywhere, we are so fortunate to have Dr. Billings grace us with her brilliance and practicality (a rare combination).

To Diane, we say: Thank you on behalf of the more than 3 million registered nurses of the United States and the millions elsewhere in the world. We have benefited from your stellar contributions! Congratulations!

REFERENCES

Patricia S. Yoder-Wise, RN, EdD, NEA-BC, ANEF, FAAN
Editor-in-Chief
psywrm@aol.com
The author has disclosed no potential conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise.
doi:10.3928/00220124-20150918-10