Making History for 2020 and Beyond: The Collaboration Between The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing and the American Nurses Credentialing Center

During The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing’s (JCEN) 50th anniversary celebration in 2019, our Editorial Advisory Board was actively engaged in many endeavors. JCEN has a new mission statement, one designed to convey the increasing importance of learning throughout a career (Yoder-Wise, 2020, p. 4). Additionally, readers heard from many of our board members throughout the year about the significance of continuing education. Some board members told a personal story, yet others provided a philosophical view. Although the Editor-in-Chief usually writes the editorial message, sharing what various people think about the importance of learning was a way of expanding our collective editorial view.

Now we have the pleasure of expanding our view even further. This editorial is co-authored because we (the authors of this editorial) are thrilled to announce a new strategic partnership between JCEN and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). JCEN will now be the exclusive journal of the ANCC Accreditation in Nursing Continuing Professional Development (NCPD) program. What a hallmark for those of us engaged in the ongoing professional development of our fellow nurses! Last month, we changed the JCEN tag line to reflect the movement from competence to competency based on the mounting evidence to show what many of us have always known—we have to continue to learn in order to be relevant. With this issue, we also see the addition of the ANCC logo that reflects JCEN as the official journal of the ANCC NCPD program.

ANCC and JCEN share a common vision—to improve the professional practice of nursing globally and to demonstrate how nurses, as members of the health care team, contribute to safe, high-quality patient care every day. Nurse leaders at ANCC know that nurses who are certified in specialty practice, who have access to NCPD and interprofessional continuing education, and who work in positive practice environments with strong nursing leaders make a difference to the patients and families they serve. Similarly, the publisher, Editor, and Board of JCEN know that lifelong learning is critical to the success of nursing as the profession meets its obligation to the patients we all serve. This shared vision between ANCC and JCEN precipitated this alignment in collaboration on expectations for the future.

Regularly published columns within the journal, including Leadership and Development and Teaching Tips, provide a foundation for nurses who practice in diverse settings globally. The growth of continuing professional development from one focused on competence to one focused on competency (Yoder-Wise, 2020) reflects the advancements the field has made over the past decades. The Administrative Angles column began with the intent of helping individuals new to the field know how to manage and lead a program devoted to providing learning opportunities for others. Historically, it also has been a resource for organizations accredited by ANCC. Edited and authored by leaders in NCPD with expertise in accreditation, this column provides a timely, thoughtful, and future-focused perspective on topics for organizations providing or approving NCPD within an accreditation system. To solidify this new relationship, Jennifer Graebe, Director of ANCC’s NCPD and Joint Accreditation Programs, assumes a new role as one of the column’s associate editors. Readers are likely familiar with Jennifer’s writings.

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as she has already contributed several items for this column. Jennifer has a rich background in continuing professional development and ANCC standards. She will be able to continue the work she has already provided, but with greater authority for the development of the column. And, we would be remiss if we didn’t acknowledge the original brains behind this new relationship—Dr. Jean Shinners, Associate Editor of Administrative Angles. We thank Jean for her work at both ANCC and JCEN and her vision of how this relationship could come into existence.

JCEN and ANCC know that professional development is the foundation of professional nursing practice—without it, nurses and the profession will stagnate. All ANCC credentialing programs include expectations that nurses participate in NCPD and that organizations provide nurses with access to and support for continuing professional development. Peer-reviewed journals such as JCEN are invaluable resources for clinicians, educators, administrators, and researchers, both as consumers of evidence-based literature and as avenues for publication and dissemination.

As we collaborate to carry our common vision forward, JCEN and ANCC will continue to focus on the future. We strive to make every issue relevant, include content that meets your needs, and challenge you with new perspectives and diversity in thinking.

Together, we are leading learning!

ANCC is the world’s largest and most prestigious nurse credentialing organization. ANCC’s internationally renowned credentialing programs certify nurses in specialty and advanced practice; recognize health care organizations for promoting safe, positive work environments through the Magnet Recognition Program® and the Pathway to Excellence® Program; accredit providers of continuing nursing education, skills competency programs, and transition-to-practice programs; and accredit approvers of continuing nursing education. ANCC provides leading-edge information and program-guidance resources to support its core credentialing programs. ANCC continues to drive nursing excellence, quality care, and improved outcomes globally through innovation and research.

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