

Headline: Palazzo named Certified Nurse Educator

Steven J. Palazzo, PhD, MN, RN, CNE, Assistant Professor, College of Nursing at Seattle University Named Certified Nurse Educator

NLN Program Highlights Standout Nurse Faculty

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seattle, WA – The College of Nursing is pleased to announce that Steven J. Palazzo, PhD, MN, RN, has earned the designation Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) after meeting strict eligibility criteria and successfully completing a rigorous certification examination developed and administered by the National League for Nursing.

Steven J. Palazzo, PhD, MN, RN, CNE is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing at Seattle University. Dr. Palazzo earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), a Master in Nursing (MN), and a Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Washington. He has eight years of clinical experience in critical care and has published research on the utility of biomarkers in diagnosing ventilator-associated pneumonia. Dr. Palazzo's current research and scholarship focuses on developing and implementing a sustainable interdisciplinary program of cardiovascular health promotion and disease prevention aimed at creating a culture of wellness in adolescents from underserved communities. He currently partners with the Hope Heart Institute to lead the Teen Take Heart program.

Dr. Palazzo is one of just 12 nursing educators from across the United States to win a highly competitive grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Nurse Faculty Scholars program in 2013. The Nurse Faculty Scholar award is given to junior faculty who show outstanding promise as future leaders in academic nursing.

Dr. Palazzo is also the recipient of the Achievement Rewards for College Scientist (ARCS) fellowship (2007), the Hope Heart Institute Sauvage Fellow (2012), Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy Fellowship (2012-13), and the Hope Heart Endowed Fellowship (2014).

“The NLN's Academic Nurse Educator Certification program has conferred new visibility and stature upon the academic nursing community that is long overdue,” said Dr. Beverly Malone, CEO of the NLN. “Through the certification program, we have made clear to the ranks of higher education that the role of nurse educator is an advanced professional practice discipline with a defined practice setting and demonstrable standards of excellence.” In years to come, she added, it is hoped that certified nurse educators will command higher salaries and be first in line for promotions and tenure.

The newly certified nurse educators reflect the spectrum of their academic colleagues in the United States:

- 33 percent hold doctoral degrees; the remainder master's degrees
- 43 percent teach in baccalaureate or higher degree programs; 40 percent in associate degree programs; 5 percent in diploma programs; and 2 percent in practical/vocational nursing programs
- 28 percent hold the rank of assistant professor; 15 percent associate professor; 14 percent full professor
- 50 percent have more than ten years of full time employment experience as academic nurse educators

There are now more than 4,000 certified nursing educators in the continental United States. Many academic nursing programs in colleges and university settings have recognized the importance of the certification and encourage all eligible nursing faculty to become certified.

With nearly half (42.8 percent) of nurse faculty projected to retire within the next decade and nearly three-quarters (69.7 percent) within 15 years, replacing them is of grave concern, to nursing and nursing education.

Editors and reporters: For interview opportunities, please contact NLN chief communications officer, Karen R. Klestzick, at 212-812-0376, kklestzick@nlm.org.

Dedicated to excellence in nursing, the National League for Nursing is the premier organization for nurse faculty and leaders in nursing education. The NLN offers faculty development, networking opportunities, testing services, nursing research grants, and public policy initiatives to its 37,000 individual and more than 1,200 institutional members comprising nursing education programs across the spectrum of higher education and health care organizations.