Becoming certified is one of the most positive and powerful achievements for a nursing professional. Certification is the recognized path for nurses to build and demonstrate commitment, confidence, and credibility.

Benefits to Hiring and Retaining Certified Nurses

- Certified nurses have a positive impact on patient care and patient safety
- Employing certified nurses validates to patients and families that nursing staff has obtained a high level of experience, knowledge, and skills
- A facility staffed by certified nurses in turn attracts more qualified nurses
- Employers who support nurses in certification and education benefit from a higher nurse retention rate
- Certified nurses are essential to achieving and maintaining American Nursing Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet® Recognition

Recommendations

According to the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) position statement on The Value of Nursing Specialty Certification, employers should:

- Seek certified nurses for their workforce
- Support nurses in their efforts to achieve or maintain certification
- Inform patients and the public about the certification status of their workforce
- Encourage nurses to display their certification credentials
- Market the accomplishments of certified nurses

Read the full statement [2]
Ways to Honor and Promote Certified Nurses

- Submit articles and press releases to local media
- Announce in facility's newsletter, e-mails, annual report
- Offer salary increase, bonus, advances in clinical ladder
- Display posters and plaques that recognize certified nurses
- Order an MSNCB Perpetual Plaque
- Give congratulatory certificates
- Give gifts (education resources, textbooks, pins)

See gifts in the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nursing online store

Keep the Appreciation Going

Becoming certified isn't a 'One and Done' achievement: Nurses must recertify after 5 years to maintain their status. According to MSNCB surveys, certified nurses greatly appreciate recognition and incentives from their institutions and managers, especially as they approach recertification.

Here are a few ideas on how to show your support:

- Reward nurses during special events like Certified Nurses Day™ (March 19) that celebrates them with a luncheon, dinner, or reception.
- Support continuing education (host a conference, send nurses to classes or symposia).
- Offer a bonus for recertification.
A formal letter, a casual note, or simply words of gratitude are easy to provide and go a long way in making a certified nurse feel appreciated.

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