Certified Nurse Appreciation

Are You Doing Enough to Reward and Retain Your Certified Nurses?

Certification 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.

One way to reward and retain certified nurses is to let them know how much you appreciate their achievement. We’ve got some suggestions, but first, we’ll give you the inside story.

MSNCB surveyed nurses about certification in 2012. One recurring theme was how much it means to be recognized.

That puts the ball in your court, and MSNCB is here to help.

Ways to Honor and Promote Your Certified Nurses

- Let the rest of the world know that your facility employs certified nurses. Submit articles and press releases to local media — see our sample press releases.
- Announce in your facility’s newsletter, e-mails, and annual report
- Offer salary increase, bonus, and advances in clinical ladder
- Display posters and plaques that recognize certified nurses
- Order an MSNCB Perpetual Plaque
- Reward them with congratulatory certificates
- Consider nominating an outstanding CMSRN for the CMSRN of Distinction Award
- Give gifts (education resources, textbooks, pins)
- Celebrate your certified nurses with a luncheon, dinner, or reception during special events like Certified Nurses Day™ March 19 and Medical-Surgical Nurses Week: November 1-7 [5]
• Support continuing education (host a conference, send nurses to classes or symposia)
• Give a formal letter, a casual note, or simply words of gratitude

Bibliography
ABNS, the American Board of Nursing Specialties, maintains a certification bibliography on their Website. The bibliography provides a list of published sources that focus on nursing certification that is updated yearly.

Go to the ABNS site to download the certification bibliography [6]

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