



Living the CCNE Values: 20th Anniversary Editorial Series

Maintain *integrity* through a consistent, fair, and honest accreditation process.

October 25, 2018 - As I reflect on the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education's (CCNE) 20th anniversary of conducting on-site evaluations and accrediting nursing programs, CCNE's continued success and reputation for excellence are not surprising because, from its inception, the foundation for the Commission's activities has rested on 12 values. CCNE's reputation for quality stems from the assurance that all involved are committed to and guided by integrity. The following passage is found in the CCNE publication, *Achieving Excellence in Accreditation: The First 10 Years of CCNE*:

The first goal for the Steering Committee was the development of an organization that was mission-driven, values-based and responsive to its constituencies. Among the most important actions taken by the CCNE Board, based on the work of the Steering Committee was the adoption of a set of values to guide the Commission in its deliberations. (p.31)

The work of CCNE is conducted by staff and volunteers. As I engage with the staff and the volunteer-led committees and Board, a true picture of integrity emerges as these individuals are guided by the CCNE values. It is evident that each volunteer and staff member is committed to developing and implementing processes that ensure excellence is maintained. CCNE's communities of interest can be assured that because of integrity, the CCNE accreditation process is fair and equitable as are the resulting Board decisions.

The nursing profession is one of the most highly respected professions in the United States. This is primarily because nursing education is focused on preparing knowledgeable nurses to care for human beings when they are most vulnerable. Interventions are based on an integration of theory and evidence provided by nursing research from nursing leaders who have focused their practice on individuals and their reactions to and accommodation of assaults to their health. Early on, the nursing profession knew that it had to ensure that the preparation of its practitioners was of the highest level and that they would provide the best care possible. Nurse educators also recognized that educational programs had to be current, innovative, and support a wide variety



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About the editorial series:

Upon its founding, the CCNE Steering Committee developed a set of 12 values to guide CCNE's work. These values are central to the organization's identity, and CCNE accreditation activities are premised on these statements of principle.

Throughout CCNE's 20th anniversary year, each edition of this editorial series will explore a different CCNE value. This series can be accessed on the [CCNE website](#).

of learners preparing to care for those with health needs. Students must have the assurance and confidence that when they receive their baccalaureate, master's, and DNP degrees or post-graduate certificates, they have the knowledge they need to practice, lead, and move the profession to the next level. This same commitment to excellence extends to transition-to-practice programs for new nurses. Within the framework of continuous quality improvement, academic programs and healthcare organizations are collaborating to establish residency programs to support new nurses entering practice and to improve the quality of patient care.

Excellence in nursing education and nurse residency programs is assured by the CCNE accreditation process and offers graduates external validation of the quality of the programs they are entering and completing. CCNE's emphasis on integrity validates both the education and residency accreditation processes.

Thomas Leonard, a founding father in the professional life coaching arena, said that "integrity reveals beauty," an appropriate description for the efforts of the members of the CCNE Board, evaluation teams, committees, task forces, and staff.

I am proud to say that I was among the first volunteers to be trained as a CCNE on-site evaluator in 1998. As I leave the Board at the end of 2018, I am humbled and grateful that I have been allowed to be a part of something that contributes to the quality of my profession. I am first a nurse, then an educator and a chief nurse administrator; but I am always a nurse. CCNE, through its value of integrity, has allowed me to be true to that commitment to care.

Best Wishes.