

Application – 2018 Certification Grant

Biographical Information

**indicates required field*

*Name/Credentials: _____

*Employer/Title: _____

*Mailing Address: _____

*Phone: _____

*Email: _____

*Number of Years in Neuroscience/Stroke Nursing: _____

AANN Membership ID# and Year Joined (optional): _____

*Nursing License # and Date of Expiration: _____

***Please provide an electronic (e.g., scanned) copy of license or other documentation.** If not applicable (i.e., international members), provide a copy of your RN certificate and an English translation of the document.

***As a recipient of this grant, I agree to:**

1. Utilize grant funds to take either the CNRN or SCRN exam within one (1) year of award date. If I am deemed ineligible or cancel my application, I will return the funds to AMWF.
2. Submit a summary quote or statement to AMWF about the benefits of receiving the grant within ninety (90) days of taking the exam. Send the statement to grants@AMWF.org.
3. Grant permission to AANN and AMWF to use my name in promotion of the AMWF grant program in the AANN *Neuroscience News*, AANN/ABNN website, at the annual meeting, on Facebook, through other social media, and otherwise.

Authorized Signature (electronic)

1/30/2018

Date

**Please submit this application form in addition to the following required documentation, as described above and in the Certification Grant Application Guidelines:
(Please check boxes as indicated)**

- Two (2) letters of recommendation, typed, using recommendation form template below
- Essay describing primary job responsibilities/work accomplishments, labeled Essay # 1
- Essay describing reasons for seeking recertification/benefits for career advancement, labeled Essay # 2

Local AANN Chapter (if applicable), Year Joined, and Leadership Roles:

██████ lacks local AANN chapter. I have been in contact with AANN to start the local chapter after gathering a committed group of neuro nurses and completing the requirement process.

Other Professional Involvement (may include internal committees, professional memberships and/or leadership roles):

Co-chair for Performance & Growth council

Member of Evidence-based practice committee, Competency committee & hospital Nurse Cabinet

Member of AACN since 2003

Member of AANN since 2016

Member of ONS since 2017

*Do you have any means for financial support to certify your CNRN or SCRN credential? Yes No
If Yes, explain and provide estimated US dollar amounts. Example: institution pays \$200 for registration fee or preparation fees.

How did you hear about this grant? AANN email

*Does your institution reimburse for certification or recertification?

Yes

No

*Are you a current member of AANN?

Yes

No

*Have you received a grant from AMWF, NNF, WFNN, or any other group for your certification or recertification in the last 10 years?

Yes

No

*Are you a current Board member of any National or International Leadership Board of Directors?

Yes _____

No

AMWF Certification Grant – Candidate Recommendation Form #1

Typing of this document is **required**. Completed materials must be sent to grants@amwf.org.

Name of individual completing this form: _____

I worked with this candidate when I was a:

- Board Member
- Committee Member
- Supervisor
- Co-worker
- Colleague
- Other: _____

I worked with the Candidate during the following time period: 2015 thru present day

and while with _____ (name of organization).

Please give specific examples (in paragraph form) of this candidate's contributions to neuroscience or stroke nursing based on the following criteria:

Leadership

■ served as a Charge Nurse in the Neuro and Surgical Trauma ICU, receiving a silver award for her leadership. ■ is always willing to help as needed and is sought out for her guidance and leadership among her peers. Over the past two years as the Neuro Clinical Educator, ■ has led several projects to include development of a progressive/stepdown Neuro Care unit. She assisted the team in developing an evidenced based scope of care and staff competencies. ■ has served on the Stroke Team steering committee for University, which just received for the second time, the Joint Commission's Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification. ■ leadership in this team has been invaluable in obtaining and maintaining this Stroke Certification.

Professional Service

■ currently services as the co-chair for performance and growth, one of the hospitals collaborative governance council. In her role as the co-chair she has lead a group of nurses who are seeking to bring a review course for the Nursing Stroke Certification to ■ in an effort to increase our Neuro and Stroke certified staff. ■ currently has the CCRN, but is preparing to take the SCRN. She is setting the bar for other staff members. One of her goals for 2018 is to develop a ■ Chapter of AANN. ■ has led groups of staff to develop professional nursing guidelines based on best evidence based practices and research.

Mentoring/Education

As a clinical nurse educator, ■ mentors charge nurses, preceptors, staff nurses and new graduates on the Neuro Unit. ■ has worked with a group of educators to improve the onboarding processes for new staff, developing improved competencies tools, onboarding mile markers and a preceptor program. The Neuro Competencies have been developed using the AANN and CCRN standards and recommendations. ■ strives to ensure her education materials are best evidence and drives staff to deliver high quality patient care. ■ has developed the Neuro Unit education plan with the intent of improving understanding amongst staff of Neuro-Specialty patient needs, competencies and skills.

Staff/Patient Advocacy

■ facilitates the Neuro Unit's Collaborative Councils, ensuring staff voices and needs are represented on committees at the unit and hospital levels. ■ serves as a patient advocate by rounding on both staff and patients daily. She is available to new nurses helping with their NRP projects and meeting with them regularly with their preceptors to ensure their orientation is the best they can receive. ■ experience as a Critical Care nurse has helped her in her position as educator in which she focuses on both staff and patient advocacy.

AMWF Certification Grant – Candidate Recommendation Form #2

Typing of this document is **required**. Completed materials must be sent to grants@amwf.org.

Name of individual completing this form: _____

I worked with this candidate when I was a:

- Board Member
- Committee Member
- Supervisor
- Co-worker
- Colleague
- Other: _____

I worked with the Candidate during the following time period: August 2011-present

and while with _____ (name of organization).

Please give specific examples (in paragraph form) of this candidate's contributions to neuroscience or stroke nursing based on the following criteria:

Leadership

I have had the pleasure of supervising _____ for more than 6 years. During this time period she has transitioned from a staff nurse, charge nurse and in to a Nurse Educator. As a staff nurse _____ was viewed as a leader and a "go to" person because of her skill, knowledge and ability to handle any critical situation. As a staff nurse she served as one of the primary preceptors for the Surgical Trauma ICU. In April of 2016 she transitioned into a nurse educator role and now provides support to our neuroscience acute care unit and oncology acute care unit. During this Summer while preparing for or upcoming Joint Commission Comprehensive Stroke accreditation visit our stroke program coordinator resigned. _____ immediately assumed those additional roles and responsibilities and through her leadership efforts the neuroscience acute care unit had no deficiencies and we were successfully accredited.

Professional Service

_____ leads by example to promote nursing. She is active on numerous hospital wide committee to include the EBP committee where she serves as the neuroscience content expert and ensures that the policies, procedures and guidelines incorporate the most recent evidence. _____ also serves on the Competency Committee and assisted in revising the nursing competencies to ensure that the competencies aligned with the standards from QSEN, BON, ANA, IOM and specialty nursing organizations. She is a co-chair of the Performance and Growth committee and was instrumental in organizing and hosting a Health System wide nursing certification event in which certified nurses were honored and celebrated. Additionally, she was responsible for revising and streamlining the peer feedback process that is used annually by over 1500 nurses. She is a member of numerous professional organization to include AACN, AANN and ONS and regularly attends the national conferences. _____ is active in health promotion events and has participated in numerous community activities to promote stroke awareness.

Mentoring/Education

As the nurse educator for the neuroscience acute care unit _____ is present for all on-boarding and training of new staff to include nursing and technicians. She is very active in mentoring the staff in the nurse residency program and assisted the nurse residents on her floor into having an abstract and poster successfully accepted and presented at the 2017 Stoke Conference in Chicago. During a learning needs assessment _____ determined that her staff would benefit from attending advanced education for neurological emergencies. She worked with unit leadership and her medical staff and was able to offer the Emergency Neurological Life Support (ENLS) course to the neuroscience nursing staff. Additionally, _____ provides In-situ simulation on her unit for mock code blues and mock code strokes.

Staff/Patient Advocacy

_____ is always evaluating and monitoring current practices to ensure patients receive the highest quality of patient care. She recently worked with staff to develop and refine a handoff and audit tool that ensures all stroke patients receive the appropriate standard of care during the hospitalization and prior to discharge. _____ worked with a group of staff to develop a patient education stroke handbook that provides customizable stoke education information that is used throughout our organization. She also participated on a multisite research study evaluating best bathing practices to reduce the risk for central line and urinary catheter infections. _____ is actively assisting on a grant funded research project that is working to make _____ Hospital a Dementia friendly hospital. This initiative is not only geared towards improving the care of patients with dementia but it will also reduce the number of staff assaults by patients with dementia.

AMWF Certification Grant - Essay #1

Typing of this document is **required**. Completed materials must be sent to grants@amwf.org.

Credentials: MSN,RN,CCRN

Employer/Title: [REDACTED]/Nurse educator Neurosciences Acute

Please describe your primary job role and its relation to neuroscience or stroke nursing. Include any key work accomplishments within the past five (5) years. *Applications with improper grammar and punctuation will not be accepted.* (500 word maximum)

Most people have heroes growing up. As far as I remember my true heroes were all nurses. The only exception was Neil Armstrong, the first man walked on the moon just a week after I was born. I remember a long-standing fascination with him, space & astronauts...

One distinguished nurse I admired as a new RN was Stephanie, a neuro ICU NP. She was inspiring with passion for knowledge and that extraordinary ability to paint comprehensible picture of the most complex neuro problems for us novice nurses. She was CNRN and I still remember my awe about how smart one should be to become one.

That was 15 years ago, since then I moved on to work in various units & did become critical care certified about 10 years ago. More than a year ago I completed my Masters of Science in education and transitioned from neurosurgical trauma ICU to the nurse educator position for neuroscience acute and post-stroke units in a large Comprehensive Stroke Center. Last year I assisted two of my new nurses with a project in our stroke unit that was accepted to the stroke conference in Chicago as a poster.

Currently I am working on several evidence based research projects for stroke patients within our unit. One project is just finalized successfully and I am planning to submit the abstract for the next Stroke conference.

I find my role in shaping unit's practice challenging, influential and exciting, more fulfilling than that childhood dream of becoming an astronaut...

(Please note: The initial instruction on the first page of application asks for essay #1 max 250 words. On this page the instruction is asking for max 500 words. I followed the initial instruction.)

AMWF Certification Grant - Essay #2

Typing of this document is **required**. Completed materials must be sent to grants@amwf.org.

Credentials: MSN,RN,CCRN

Employer/Title: [REDACTED]/Nurse educator Neurosciences Acute

Please describe reasons for seeking certification. Also describe perceived benefits for career advancement. *Applications with improper grammar and punctuation will not be accepted.* (500 word maximum)

Individually there is a list of reasons for seeking SCRN certification.

As an educator to the stroke unit, I feel the need to not only to promote being stroke certified among my nurses but also to become one as an exemplar. Becoming certified in a specialty is a sign of excellence, distinction and higher quality level of knowledge. Being stroke certified demonstrates meeting the national standards and individual commitment to that field. It is also an ultimate sign of discipline and personal development since the renewal of such certification, requires continuous education to stay up to date in the fast-changing field of stroke.

Certification validates specialty knowledge and brings more trust and capability to the table for both staff and the nurse educator. SCRN bedside nurse embodies knowledge and abilities to stroke patients and families to provide the best care. While, SCRN nurse educator personifies the role model for professional practice and dedication to team members with providing them with the newest and best available knowledge and guidance that leads to the best patient outcomes.

This is the nurse educator I strive to become.

And this is what I would hope to promote for our nurses.

Another important aspect of becoming stroke certified is our organizational efforts to shape an environment of professionalism, expertise and culture of retention due to the deep sense of achievement and commitment. Certified nurses are able to place themselves on the current clinical advancement program (CAP) for proper recognition and advancement as well.

As mentioned earlier, recertification is as valuable as obtaining the initial exam. It provides a strong while specific motivation to obtain pertinent continuous education.

One more benefit for career advancement is to connect with the community of SCRNs and exchange viewpoints and ideas to build a stronger stroke care and support communities.

The last but not least point to mention here is the benefit of being able to pay it forward as an expert mentor. An example of the need for me to be SCRN is that just recently, a decision has been made to implement more frequent NIHSS assessment for our entire stroke patients. Even though I am NIHSS certified, the organization preference was that an SCRN to teach the class for staff. I had to arrange the classes while if I was SCRN, this would have been unnecessary.

At the end I would like to thank you for the opportunity of applying for the Agnes Marshall Walker Foundation certification grant. I hope to be accepted, which will be a remarkable assistance in accomplishing not only my journey to become an SCRN but also I can contribute to start many nurses journeys to achieve the same.