

Nurse Recognition Award

SHANNON CRONIN PATEL
DNP, APRN, NEA-BC, CPHQ

INSPIRA HEALTH



Dr. Shannon Cronin Patel serves as System Assistant Vice President (AVP) for Nursing Education and Professional Development at Inspira Health. Shannon is a dedicated, experienced, and innovative nurse leader, committed to promoting and sustaining healthy work environments for nurses across New Jersey. In addition to her role as AVP, she serves as the Chair of the Nurse Workplace Environment and Staffing Council (NWESC) of the NJ Organization of Nurse Leaders (ONL). In this elected role, Shannon leads a collaborative effort with nurses and nurse leaders from more than 48 New Jersey hospitals to promote the health, safety, and well-being of nurses and inter-professional healthcare team members.

Dr. Patel is committed to nursing education and is a visiting Associate Professor at Rutgers-Camden, preparing students for their future in the profession. She has also embraced the opportunity to teach medical students at Rowan University.

Shannon's contributions to nursing are significant; she serves as the Lead Presenter of the Stress First Aid Peer Support Model through the New Jersey Nursing Emotional Well-Being Institute (NJ-New); she serves as a contributor to the latest edition of the Mosby's Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing, and Health Professions in the area of administration and evidence-based care; and she presented at the Sigma Theta Tau International Conference for Creating Healthy Work Environments in Washington, DC.

Dr. Patel is an expert at assisting her employees, students, and colleagues in coping with an ever-changing healthcare environment with a sense of enthusiasm, positivity, and outstanding insight into the needs of busy healthcare providers. Her approach includes ensuring the environment, not just programs, supports the well-being of the staff. She recently participated in the Sigma Theta Tau Healthy Work Environments to share the use of a Crisis Response Canine as a tool for proactive stress management. She is also working with colleagues at Rutgers-Camden School of Nursing and Brunel University in London on an International Culture of Care Initiative to examine mechanisms that support nurses to make a difference on a global scale. Dr. Patel stands out as an influential nurse leader, role model, educator, and advocate for nurses. She consistently goes 'above and beyond' to positively impact the nursing community and enhance patient care, making sustained and impactful contributions as a committed leader in healthcare.

A message from Shannon: I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to every member of the incredible support network I've been so blessed to have developed during my 30+ years in nursing.

To my amazing and forward-thinking parents, thank you for the endless love, guidance, and support. I am so lucky that you both knew I would be a successful nurse way back when I had dreams of being a news anchor :) I love and thank God daily for gifting me such remarkable parents.

To my husband Vin, you are the magic that has brought everything in my life into place. Your dedication to the healthcare profession and the genuine empathy and love you so generously share with every person under your care inspires me to grow and become better every day. Your love, empathy, and compassion are foundational to the beautiful life we've built with our amazing sons Ryan, Dylan, and Kieran. I am endlessly grateful for you and the amazing life we share.

To the many incredible colleagues I've had the privilege of working with over my 30+ years in the nursing profession, you have each played a role in shaping the person and nurse leader I continue to aspire to become. I am forever grateful to all of you. A special thanks to Dean Marie O'Toole from Rutgers School of Nursing, Camden. You have been, and continue to be, the standard of success I strive for. Words can't express how much I appreciate everything you've done to inspire and support me throughout my academic and professional journey. You remain the nurse leader I most aspire to emulate, and I will always treasure the relationship we have built.