The Washington Center for Nursing (WCN) is the statewide nursing workforce organization whose goal is to build an adequate nursing workforce for Washington State for the future. The WCN Board is led by nurses from across Washington who are actively involved in nursing, and are men and women of varying backgrounds, ethnicities, care settings and education levels.
Nurse educators play a crucial role in developing the nursing workforce so that we can continue to care for our population. Teaching future nurses is an exciting and rewarding career in which educators help students learn nursing concepts and develop skills while ultimately enriching the nursing profession.

Nurse educators describe their careers...

"It’s so rewarding watching my students grow and knowing that my career as a nurse is benefiting them. It’s powerful knowing I am helping the nurses of tomorrow develop into the healthcare professionals they want to be."

“As a nurse educator, I enjoy the options I have within the field. Not only do I get to play a hands-on role in educating future nurses, but I also get to be involved with other aspects of nursing I love, like research, writing and professional organizations.”

Nurse educators have diverse opportunities within the field. They can teach at the undergraduate, master’s and doctoral levels. Educators have roles like:

**Full time faculty member/instructor**
Serves as an educator. Interacts with nursing students on a daily basis, designs and evaluates curriculum and guides students through their programs. Often conducts research, participates in professional organizations, writes grants and may continue clinical work.

**Adjunct faculty member/instructor**
Serves as an educator part time while continuing to serve in the clinical field.

**Dean or Director**
Leads the nursing program and collaborates with faculty.

**Student mentor**
While fulfilling instructor roles, nurse educators can also serve as student mentors. They shape the future of nursing by sharing experiences in nursing while also helping students identify their strengths so they can succeed in their nursing program.

Educators can fill many roles in a variety of settings including:
- Four year colleges and universities
- Community and technical colleges
- Hospitals and healthcare organizations
- Grad school and university programs
- Continuing education
- Online programs
- Community and professional organizations
- Nursing service organizations
- Other roles may vary based on institution and personal interests.

Nurse educators have a strong educational background. They value continuing education and are lifelong learners. Nurse educators have qualifications including:

**Master’s in Nursing (MSN or MN)**
To teach, a nurse educator must be equipped with the education and training needed to provide effective guidance. Nurse educators teaching in programs preparing RNs must hold at least a master’s degree. Those teaching LPNs must hold at least a BSN.

**Ph.D. or DNP**
Many nurse educators have earned doctoral degrees. Teachers at this level conduct research in the science of nursing and teaching. In addition to research, doctorally prepared faculty teach, advise students and may continue clinical work.

**Certified Nurse Educator (CNE)**
CNE certification is national recognition of the educator’s competence and achievement in teaching nursing.

Resources or for more information, please contact:
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