

BECOMING A NURSE EDUCATOR

Advice from John

- Be a sponge and seek all the education you can
- Find a mentor and ask them to be a guide
- Enroll in a Master's program
- Develop communication competencies to relate to professional nurses
- Listen to learn: When someone suggests doing education a different way, listen. Be willing to take criticism and feedback.
- Join a professional society, like Association for Nursing Professional Development

Characteristics of a nurse educator

- Flexible, as priorities continually shift
- Plans ahead
- Goal-oriented
- Able to set and meet deadlines
- Enjoys teaching
- Willing to reach out when need help
- Stays connected with other nurse educators
- Curious
- Sees opportunities in new situations

If you're interested in becoming a nurse educator, contact the SON Admissions Office at proginfo@ohsu.edu, 503-494-7725 or visit.ohsu.edu/son to inquire about the Master's in Nursing Education program.



John Elliott, MN, RN, NPD-BC

"I'm a nurse. I'll always be a nurse, even if I'm not hands-on with patients. Being a nurse educator is rewarding. I see the connection to improving patient care. It's truly my passion."

It used to be called staff education. Over the last 15 years, nursing professional development has become as a specialty, including standards of practice. When John Elliot started, he was working as a pediatric nurse, and his manager asked him to take on an education role while also caring for patients.

IT LIT HIS FIRE

Once the education position was formalized, John says, "It lit my fire." He always liked being a resource and helping other nurses. Now, he could move beyond being a mentor or preceptor. He found an opportunity to share things he's learned and guide others. "It was a great and very fulfilling role." He enjoys being a resource to frontline workers.

SAYING "YES" TO YOUR POTENTIAL

John's glad he said "yes" to becoming a nurse educator. He looks at nurses as his clients and strives to listen so he can provide them with the support and information they need to serve patients. His role is to build relationships and understand adult learning theory, so he can develop and design curriculum that meets the needs of nurses.



OHSU OREGON NURSING EDUCATION ACADEMY
For more information on the Oregon Nursing Education Academy, contact Alanna Lowery, loweryal@ohsu.edu
ohsu.edu/oregonnursingacademy

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John's career path

"I truly enjoy helping nurses learn and achieve their career goals."

RN Program Manager,
Providence Clinical Academy,
2021 to present

Affiliate president,
Association of Nursing
Professional Development
(ANPD), 2023

Association of Nursing Professional
Development (ANPD), 2019 to present

Regional Manager for Clinical
Orientation & Development,
Providence, 2019

Became NPD-BC, certified
in nursing professional
development, 2018

"Felt so good
to have my
competencies
recognized."

"Continually
learning and
growing makes me
a better educator."

Graduated from OHSU
with Master's (MN) in
Nursing Education, 2017

RN Transition Mentor,
Providence, 2018

Professional Nurse Educator
Group (PNEG), 2015 - present

Professional Practice Leader,
Doernbecher NICU, 2015-2018

Certified Pediatric
Nursing, 2010

"My manager recogized my potential
to be an educator. So grateful."

Pediatric Float Pool
Staff Educator, 2010

Pediatric Float Pool RN,
Doernbecher, 2007-2015

Pediatric Clinic RN, Physician's
Medical Center, 2007-2008

Nursing was my
calling from day one.

Pediatric Float Pool RN,
Doernbecher, 2003-2006

RN on Medical Unit at
Seattle Children's, 2001

**STARTED
HERE**

Graduated 2001 UW,
Seattle, with Bachelor
of Science, Nursing
(BSN)

"Nursing can take
you to incredible places. Think
outside the box. Take
opportunities. Don't be afraid
to say yes to anything. It can
lead to amazing
opportunities."

— John Elliott

