

passion for students honored among peers

A student advocate and enthusiastic teacher, if anyone can lay claim to being the mentor-in-residence in the UConn School of Nursing it is Assistant Clinical Professor and Director of Pre-Licensure Programs, John McNulty. Recent recipient of the Connecticut League for Nursing's President's Award, McNulty exemplifies a commitment to blending his clinical practice with clinical education.

In awarding McNulty in 2014, the Connecticut League for Nursing recognized that he "brings to the nursing community a strong commitment to the CLN Board of Directors, Executive Committee and his position as an officer. He is a passionate advocate and mentor for over two decades. He is a leader with a strong capacity for organizational development and planning through his work at his University and his position as Treasurer of CLN."

A graduate of the St. Francis Hospital diploma program as well as a BSN from American International College and a UConn School of Nursing master's degree, McNulty has devoted to nursing education a quarter century of his nearly four decades in nursing. "I have a strong commitment to insuring the future workforce through my teaching responsibilities," McNulty explains. "I truly believe that to be part of a profession you need to be committed to life-long learning. The advances in health care and nursing require constant vigilance in expanding our personal knowledge so that we can provide the best evidenced-based care to our patients and families to improve health outcomes."

For his part, McNulty is grateful for the network of learning and support that the CLN has provided him and Connecticut's nurse educators: "programs that support the development of the pedagogical expertise of nursing faculty across the state are also very rewarding to me professionally."

He is also gratified by his involvement with CLN, which he characterizes as "an organization that supports and fosters the advancement of nursing education in the state. My involvement provides me with an opportunity to continue to support initiatives that continue to make a positive impact on our future nurses."

McNulty has worked in a variety of roles in the School of Nursing. Beginning as a visiting lecturer, he has served as undergraduate clinical coordinator, director of academic advising, clinical instructor, and now pre-licensure program director, a role in which he oversees the School of Nursing's four-year baccalaureate degree and the intensive eleven-month CEIN_BS program for students who have previously earned bachelor's degrees.

... an exceptional nurse will know when it is time to take the stethoscope out of his or her ears and sit down with a patient to really listen to what is going on in their heart, says McNulty

"If I had to describe the most rewarding aspect of my current role as the director of the program," McNulty observes, "it comes from my clinical practice as a clinical resource coordinator at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center where I work on a per diem basis twelve to twenty-four hours per month. In that capacity I work with our new graduates in clinical practice and watch how they have become strong, independent practitioners within their own careers, putting into practice what they have learned through their educational experience at UConn."



passion
UNLEASHED

His passion for teaching and nursing are exemplified in the way he teaches students to listen. "When I teach students about the basic use of a stethoscope in listening to cardiac sounds," McNulty explains, "I talk to them about the difference in practice between a good nurse and an exceptional nurse. A good nurse will learn how to use a stethoscope to hear the various sounds that a heart can make,

but an exceptional nurse will know when it is time to take the stethoscope out of his or her ears and sit down with a patient to really listen to what is going on in their heart." These teaching moments exemplify McNulty's commitment to his nursing students to prepare them for future nursing practice through a holistic caring lens. ■