

ceived, were taught and then were encouraged to practice upon discharge home. Increase in first-time/curious clients? Perhaps!

Wisdom Wraps

In closing, dear fellow health care provider, the Healing Touch Program and its curriculum changed my life. It helped me to become a better care provider as a nurse, to love myself for who I am, to be more present to my family, friends, peers, patients, and clients. Most importantly, it taught me ways to heal and to recognize the importance of that as I give back. That is true grace and heart-centered compassionate care, which is what we do as Healing Touch Practitioners and as health care professionals. For more information, please visit the HTP website at healingtouchprogram.com. May your journeys be sprinkled with self-care and may you know that you make a difference in the world every day. ■

References online:
myamericannurse.com/?p=422304



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COLUMN: FOCUS ON FIRST STATE NURSING INNOVATION

Innovating Academic-Practice Partnerships for Student & Novice Nurse Success

After the COVID-19 pandemic, health systems and academic institutions have faced exacerbated shortages of nursing personnel and faculty. The nationwide shortage of clinical educators and nursing faculty is 9%; but a survey completed by the Delaware Nurses Association found that the State of Delaware full-time faculty shortage is 12.3%. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration there will be a shortage of 78,610 full-time RNs in 2025. Approximately 23.8% of newly hired registered nurses (RNs) leave their positions within the first year. This scenario has necessitated institutional leaders to develop innovative, impactful, and sustainable solutions.

To enhance the integration of theoretical

knowledge and practical skills among nursing students, leaders at the University of Delaware and Bayhealth implemented a comprehensive academic and clinical practice partnership. By aligning clinical education experience with real-world practice through long-term engagement at a single facility, the focus is on the effectiveness of nurse preparation and retention. Concurrently, the development of clinical staff into teaching roles addresses the dual challenge of faculty shortage and professional growth, creating a sustainable model that strengthens both educational and clinical environments.

Leadership from the University of Delaware and Bayhealth developed a collaborative approach that addresses and works

toward a seamless transition from education to practice. The SSS was designed to build a strong connection between nursing curricula and nursing practice. Experienced nurses at Bayhealth receive week-long training focused on the role of clinical faculty and serve as the faculty for the scholar program. The clinical faculty remain as paid hospital employees yet teach as clinical faculty with release time from hospital. Junior nursing students are recruited, apply for, interview, and are selected by Bayhealth to join the clinical scholar program their senior year. Student scholars in their final year of the BSN program at the University of Delaware complete their senior year of clinical experiences at Bayhealth. Student scholars receive

a financial stipend and employment with a nurse residency after graduation into the health system with a two-year work commitment.

The experienced bedside nurse benefits from having the opportunity to stay at the bedside, with time off the floor to teach

clinical, while gaining clinical teaching skills and earn a certificate or master's degree in nursing education. Students who engage in a continuous, purposeful clinical experience at Bayhealth exhibit superior preparedness and adaptation to the RN role compared to their peers who experience multiple clinical

settings and practice areas after graduation. This holistic approach not only improves the readiness and success of new RNs but also fortifies the clinical teaching infrastructure, embodying a forward-thinking leadership strategy in nursing education and workforce development. ■

Should Breaking News Alter Your Investment Strategy?

More than ever before, investors are inundated with news alerts and headlines on market-moving events. The 24/7 news cycle, social media and technology have allowed global headlines to be accessible nearly immediately, which causes many investors to consider the investment implications of the news of the day, such as trade disputes, political uncertainty and global business decisions. If you follow the news, it's important to consider just how much, or how little, trending stories should influence your financial decisions.

- **Be aware, but don't overreact.** Investors who become fearful that a market downturn may be imminent are often tempted to sell some investments and move money into less volatile alternatives. That could include low-risk bonds or cash-equivalent investments. But taking risk "off the table" by selling stock positions has its own perils – what we call "opportunity risk," or missing out on potential future growth of those stock positions. Staying invested for the long-term can help maximize gains while letting temporary volatility work itself out.

If you scan the news, you won't have any trouble finding contradictory predictions about which direction the stock market is going in the months to come. Some might say stocks are going higher while others will warn that a major market downturn is on the horizon. The reality is that nobody knows for certain what's going to happen in the stock market in the short term. Basing your investment decisions on such speculation can be counterproductive. When evaluating whether you need to make changes to your portfolio, look for persistent trends that may affect the broader economy's

vitals and work with your financial advisor to identify if these trends justify a change in your investment approach.

- **The market has overcome challenges before.** It's also important to remember that historically markets have rebounded after large business decisions, geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty and political positions captivate the news cycle. At times, markets have reacted negatively to specific events that dominate headlines. But historically a sense of normalcy returns, allowing investors to once again turn their focus to underlying investment fundamentals.
- **Assess your risk tolerance and invest accordingly.** If you are close to retirement, you may want to reduce your equity exposure. Although, keep in mind you may still want some growth opportunities as a portion of your portfolio to reach future retirement goals or at a minimum, maintain pace with inflation. If you have more time to let your money work, and overcome any negative moves in stock prices, you may be able to handle more risk. Find a portfolio strategy that fits your comfort level, no

matter current news trends, and try to stick with it.

- **Focus on your goals.** Regardless of what is happening in the news cycle or markets, one investing principle holds true: focus on your unique financial goals. If you are accumulating wealth to meet a goal that is years or even decades away, market volatility that happens today, next week or next year is likely part of the normal pattern you should expect. If specific headlines or trends are making you reconsider your investment strategy, re-evaluate your risk tolerance and consider meeting with a financial professional for a second opinion. Together you can discuss how to best position your portfolio for the current environment in a way that is consistent with your goals.

It is normal for investors to be concerned about headlines as they pertain to markets and investments. Working with a financial advisor to ensure your portfolio is well-diversified and aligned with your goals and risk tolerance is key to avoiding potential overexposure to unnecessary investment risk. ■



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1 - Ameriprise Financial: "Did You Know..." May 8, 2024. Compiled by Russell T. Price, Chief Economist | Ameriprise Financial cannot guarantee future financial results. | Securities offered by Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC. | © 2025 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.