



Concept-Based Nursing—Shaping the Future Together

As we look to the future of nursing in Colorado, concept-based nursing is emerging as a powerful, synergistic approach impacting everyone from nurse educators to bedside clinicians. At its core, concept-based nursing shifts our focus from rote memorization of disease-specific details to mastering broad principles, critical thinking, and clinical reasoning. This approach not only prepares us to care for diverse patient populations, but also ensures our practice remains grounded in evidence, safety, and quality outcomes. Assessment, evaluation, and outcome measures are central to this model.

Nurse educators now have the responsibility and privilege to deliver evidence-based education, both in clinical settings and classrooms. Our teaching must address the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains of learning, with both qual-

itative and quantitative measures providing essential feedback to support student growth. Pioneered by leaders like Dr. Jean Giddens, the concept-based curriculum is rooted in patient-centered care and lifelong learning. Concept-based nursing has always been woven through the lifespan, illness, and across care settings. Now, with frameworks like the Johns Hopkins Nursing Evidence-Based Practice Model, nurses from all backgrounds can access practical tools for inquiry, practice, and improvement.

For direct care nurses, this means applying the nursing process: assessment, diagnosis, planning, and implementation, with a mindset of curiosity and continuous learning. Inquiry allows us to challenge the status quo, seek solutions, and elevate care for our patients and communities.

Nurse leaders are at the heart of this

transformation, guiding teams, articulating vision, and optimizing collaboration to achieve quality outcomes. Yet, as noted in the Institute of Medicine's "Crossing the Quality Chasm", one of our greatest challenges is uniting diverse teams toward a common purpose.

In closing, I invite each of you to reflect: How are we showing up in our work environments? How do we keep the flame burning, connecting concepts, fostering inquiry, and never losing sight of our patients' needs? Together, let's continue to champion excellence, innovation, and patient-centered care in all we do. ■

With gratitude,

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President, Colorado Nurses Association

GAPP Update

Mary Satre, MSN, MBA, RN, Co-Chair of CNA GAPP Committee, National Nurses Week – Capitol Recognition

Since the last publication deadline of Colorado Nurse, National Nurses Week, May 6-12, 2026, was marked in Colorado with a Proclamation from Governor Jared Polis and recognition in both houses of the legislature. Senator C. Kipp, with Senator K. Mullica, RN, by her side, read a statement in the Senate early in the week.

In lieu of the regular online GAPP meeting for May, the Committee opted to meet in person at the Capitol on Thursday May 7th. Members were the guests of Representative E. Hamrick and were seated on the main floor of the Chamber and recognized by House of Representatives members. Representative Hamrick read the statement acknowledging nurses and Nurses Week. She then ensured that every nurse present was able to meet their own

representative in person. In addition, she gave an instructive overview of the anticipated day's business in the House that included the pathway taken by bills in the Colorado Legislature. The day's docket consisted of second and third readings of bills, several of which GAPP had been following. As business got underway, the nurses were gratified to be consulted in real time on a point for language clarification in a pending bill by Representative A. Paschal (District 18 Colorado Springs). Nurses make a difference!

GAPP Recording Officer Amy Diamond, APRN, was present and coupled the House visit with testimony on two Senate bills in committee on the day.

Lunch at the offices of CNA and the evening lighting of the Capitol, the City

and County Building, and the Clock Tower in honor of nurses completed the day.

This was a rare opportunity for GAPP and other CNA members to meet in person outside of the annual Conference (happening on Thursday September 24th this year).

The CNA Executive Team rounded out this Session with a Legislative Debrief Town Hall on May 22nd. GAPP members and CNA members were joined by other interested nurses as the contract lobbyist team, Capitol Success, presented a roundup of 2026 legislation and an overview of the State Budget's "Big Bill." Based on the work and recommendations of GAPP, CNA took a position on 40 bills; 19 of the 23 that were supported were passed by the Legislature. Executive Direc-