

**2017 National Conference Scholarship to Indianapolis, Indiana**  
**Melinda Phillips, RN, CAPA – South Carolina**

The 36<sup>th</sup> annual National ASPAN Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana was amazing to say the least! I am so thankful to have been selected as one of the scholarship recipients. My very first national conference I attended was three years ago in Las Vegas, Nevada. I was positive it would become a once in a lifetime opportunity. Three years later, I am still in amazement that I was blessed with another opportunity to attend this year's conference.

I have worked in perianesthesia nursing for 12 of my 18 years as a registered nurse. My passion for this field keeps growing stronger with each passing year. I work for AnMed Health in Anderson, SC, at our North Campus in Outpatient Surgery. We are a very busy surgical and endoscopy unit with up to 50 patients coming through each day. I became a Certified Ambulatory PeriAnesthesia nurse two years ago and will have my Bachelor of Science in Nursing completed in the summer of 2018. I cannot imagine myself doing anything else! I love taking care of my surgery patients, young and old, helping them through the preoperative and postoperative phases of having surgery. I not only love taking care of my surgery patients, but their family members and support systems also. I want to provide the very best care possible that my patients are so deserving of.

I learned so much at the 2017 conference and am excited to share my new knowledge with my coworkers. There were so many great classes to choose from and activities to attend. I really enjoyed the Component Night and the Development Breakfast. Meeting and talking with nurses from all over the country is always exciting. Indianapolis was a beautiful city and very welcoming. The nurses that consecutively attend these conferences overflow with passion and knowledge and I want to be just like them! I am excited for what the future holds in my career and in perianesthesia nursing. I cannot wait until the next opportunity to attend my next national ASPAN conference.

Thank you ASPAN, for choosing me as a scholarship recipient and believing in me! I am forever grateful for this opportunity. You have made this nurse from South Carolina one happy girl!