

2025 ASPAN National Conference – Dallas, TX

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My entire relationship with ASPAN has been predicated on the encouragement of others. I am CAPA certified because of the support of a professional development nurse who set up tutoring for the exam 15 yrs ago. I have presented poster and podium presentations at conferences because colleagues or managers encouraged me to do so. Receiving this scholarship has been no different. Serving as Clinical Inquiry director for the MASPAN component, I wasn't sure I should apply. Several board members encouraged me to do so and low and behold, I was awarded a scholarship to attend this year's conference in Dallas, Tx.

In addition to all the new knowledge I came away with, and the networking that took place, it was the encouragement and support of the incredible board of directors I work with who have really helped keep the fire of being involved alive. I don't know about you, but the pandemic took something out of me. And re-emerging into a healthcare system that doesn't really focus on 'health' or 'care' has taken even more. Being a nurse for almost 40 years has been one of the biggest privileges of my life, yet I see and feel the reasons I chose this profession slipping away.

Being able to attend this year's conference brought a renewal to my nurse's soul. Hearing speakers talk about resilience and the need for laughter, talking with peers who are experiencing the same challenges, networking with really smart colleagues for what direction to take with certain situations, or how to assure standards of care are acknowledged and followed, and viewing all the work being done around our country through posters and sessions proved invaluable and invigorating.

So, a humungous thank you to the ASPAN Scholarship/Award committee and the MASPAN BOD who support and encourage nurses despite the changing climate of healthcare.

And to those of you wondering if you should apply..... YOU SHOULD. 😊