

2026 ASPAN National Conference – San Francisco, CA

Suzanne Russell, BSN, RN, CAPA

Attending the 2026 American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses National Conference in San Francisco as a scholarship recipient was both an honor and a transformative professional experience. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to participate in such a dynamic and inspiring gathering of perianesthesia professionals from across the country. The experience strengthened my commitment to professional excellence, leadership, mentorship, and advocacy within our specialty.

The conference provided invaluable opportunities to engage with current evidence-based practices, emerging trends, and innovative approaches in perianesthesia nursing. Attending educational sessions and networking with leaders in the field broadened my perspective and reinforced the importance of lifelong learning and professional accountability. The knowledge and insight I gained continue to influence my current professional practice and conference participation by encouraging me to remain actively engaged, informed, and committed to advancing patient care standards.

One of the most meaningful aspects of attending the conference was the opportunity to connect with passionate professionals who share a dedication to excellence and service. These interactions inspired me to strengthen my own leadership responsibilities as both a mentor and an advocate for professional growth and accountability within my organization. I returned from the conference with renewed energy and purpose, motivated to support colleagues in their development, encourage evidence-based practice, and foster a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement.

As a mentor, I recognize the importance of investing in future nursing leaders by sharing knowledge, encouraging professional involvement, and modeling accountability and integrity. The conference reinforced my belief that leadership is not limited to formal titles, but is demonstrated through service, encouragement, and the willingness to support others in reaching their potential. The educational and networking experiences I gained at ASPAN have enhanced my ability to guide and inspire others within my professional environment.

Receiving this scholarship also reminded me of the tremendous value of professional organizations such as American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses. Opportunities to attend forums like the ASPAN National Conference fuel my passion for perianesthesia nursing and strengthen my commitment to supporting the organization's mission and future sustainability. Professional organizations provide essential resources, education, advocacy, and connection that empower nurses to grow both personally and professionally.

This experience has inspired me to remain actively involved in ASPAN and to contribute in meaningful ways to the organization's continued success. I hope to play a vital role in encouraging future participation, supporting professional engagement, and promoting leadership development within the perianesthesia community. I am sincerely thankful for the scholarship support that made this experience possible and for the opportunity to continue growing as a nurse leader, mentor, and advocate.