

## Betty Cretekos Scholarships

### Purpose

This scholarship is named for Betty Cretekos who was a staff nurse and one of the original members of Friends of Nursing. She was always a strong advocate for nurses at the bedside. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage staff nurses to participate in their professional organizations by supporting their ability to attend national meetings.

Only meetings on the approved national meeting list will be considered. Each scholarship will award up to \$1500 to cover air and hotel expense. Only meetings in the United States or Canada will be considered. Two scholarships will be given each year during Nurse Week and at the Christmas Tree Lightening Ceremony. Persons who have received Friends of Nursing Grants in the previous 2 years will not be eligible for a scholarship. Staff eligible for this award includes Assistant Patient Care Managers, Clinic and Hospital Staff Nurses.

### Criteria

- Employee for at least 2 years
- SN III or IV or exempt equivalent
- .75 time commitment
- Plan to bring back information to Stanford or LPCH i.e., inservice plan, change in practice plan etc.
- Letter of support from Patient Care Manager
- A second letter of support from another colleague i.e. APCM, Educator, CNS, MD or peer

### Application process

Applications must be accompanied by a brochure or written information from the professional organization about the plans for a future meeting that includes the dates and location. The meeting being applied for must occur between July and January for the Nurse Week award and February and June for the Christmas award.

Recipients will be selected based on the strength of their applications. The application questionnaire is worth up to 60 points, the manager's letter of support is worth up to 25 points and the second letter of support is worth up to 15 points toward the total application score. Each application will be independently reviewed and scored by four individuals from the Friends of Nursing Board and reviewers from the hospital. Applications with the highest scores will be awarded the scholarships.

It is strongly suggested that staff nurses seek out a mentor to discuss how they might best answer each question and to seek out examples of their performance from managers that might be included in the application.

## **Letters of Support**

Manager' letter must speak to the following:

- The SN level
- Specify that there are no performance issues
- Describe length of employment
- Evidence of applicant's involvement in unit and other professional activities
- Evidence of professionalism
- Evidence of positive communication skills
- Evidence of leadership potential
- Evidence of interest in evidence based practice

Second letter of support must speak to the following:

- Evidence of professional activities
- Level of professionalism
- Positive communication skills
- Leadership potential
- Commitment to evidence based practice