



# CSNA Update

APRIL 2008

## CSNA BOARD MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Brittany Schnieder

Hello! I'm your new VP and I wanted to share a little bit about myself so you could get to know who is representing you at the state level. I am currently in CU Denver's Nursing School and will graduate this December with my BSN! Woo-hoo! I decided to go to nursing school about 7 months before I graduated from CSU with a BS in Psychology. I made this decision to go into nursing based on experiences I had shared with family members dealing with stressful medical situations and noticing that the nursing staff made a huge difference in easing the situation to make it bearable. Nursing has been the best decision I could have made for myself and I enjoy every day that I get to work with patients and learn more to be an even better nurse! While I never completely know what the future holds, I am thinking that I would like to pursue a career in a more critical care area of nursing when I graduate. Let me know if there is ever anything I can do to make CSNA more accessible and helpful to you!

## CSNA Spring Convention

**By: Diana Lawhead**

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On Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> nursing students from all over the state of Colorado met in Aurora for the spring CSNA convention. The day was filled with fun, encouragement and socializing activities which made for a great "escape" from nursing school.

A nurse specialty panel presented their expertise regarding their various fields of work. These nurses consisted of a flight nurse, a pediatric nurse, a travel nurse and an ICU nurse. Another presentation included the importance of cultural competency in nursing.

Also, for the first time in CSNA's history, a resolution was voted upon and passed

emphasizing the CSNA's support for the implementation and use of more computerized technology throughout hospitals. The resolution was then taken to the NSNA board of directors and was adopted during the national convention with some minor adjustments. Congratulations to everyone involved with this resolution!

Overall the day was a relaxing, enjoyable time which consisted of great food and a time to socialize with many nursing professionals. Many students had the chance to visit with exhibitors that offered coupons, free goodies and even paid internships!

It seemed to be all fun and games until the NCLEX

speaker came and spoke about the "dreaded" test we know as the state boards. You could sense the anxiety in the room! She spoke about strategies for taking the test, recognizing keywords, the levels of difficulty and gave an overview of the mechanics of the test itself.

To finish the day the keynote speaker, Karen O'Brien, told the inspiring journey of her nursing career. She drew the conference to a close with a standing ovation and brought tears to nearly every eye in the room.

It was overall a very successful convention and we hope to see you all again this Fall. **The next convention will be held Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> so please save the date!**

## NCSBN, CAT, NLC, Pearson VUE, ATT

**By: Barb Lucas**

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What does all of this have to do with the **NCLEX-RN** exam?

Congratulations! You're about to graduate and receive a bachelor or associate degree in nursing. The last hurdle to clear for licensure as a Registered Nurse is the NCLEX-RN exam. But just like all things that are nursing there is a process and, of course, fees associated with that process. The pathway to the NCLEX-RN test begins with registration. After writing multiple patient care plans and research papers the registration process will seem relatively simple. However, before we walk down the path to registration we need to explore the contribution to the process by the agencies lettered above.

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## Upcoming Events:

### 9Health Fair

April 12-20, 2008

### Nurses' Night at the Rockies

Colorado Rockies vs.  
San Francisco Giants  
May 6, 2008  
6:35pm

### National Nurses Week

May 6-12, 2008

### CSNA Fall Convention

September 27, 2008  
Denver, CO

### CNA Annual Convention

November 7-8, 2008

### NSNA Mid-Year Convention

November 13-16, 2008  
Reno, NV



Newsletter  
edited by  
Aurora Davis

National Council of State Boards of Nursing or NCSBN developed the NCLEX-RN test plan and selects not only the questions for the exam but the question writers as well. For more information about the NCSBN visit their web site at [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org)

Administration of the NCLEX-RN exam is conducted solely as a Computerized Adaptive Test, CAT for short. This means the test is created as you answer each question. The exam is used by Boards of Nursing to test a candidate's entry-level nursing competency for licensure as a Registered Nurse.

Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC), allows a nurse to have one license and to practice in other states. The license is issued from the state in which a candidate legally resides and it must be a NLC state for you to practice in other NLC states. Colorado was implemented as an NLC state in October of 2007. To view a map of other states implemented as NLC members visit the NCSBN web site.

Pearson VUE provides secure computerized testing sites throughout the United States and is authorized to deliver the NCLEX-RN exam for the NCSBN. Through their customer service (and for an additional fee) the examination can also be scheduled at testing centers outside of the U.S. From the Pearson VUE website [www.vue.com/nclex/](http://www.vue.com/nclex/) test candidates can register on line to take the NCLEX-RN examination.

Now then, we're ready to begin the steps leading up to registration for the NCLEX-RN exam. As a candidate you must first submit an application to the Board of Nursing where you wish to be licensed. In most states the application can be downloaded from the Board's web site. Be aware of any application deadlines, additional processing fees and supporting documents that must be submitted with the application.

To take the NCLEX-RN examination all of the Board of Nursing's eligibility requirements **MUST** be met. As indicated above, candidates can register and pay **online** for the NCLEX-RN exam. Registration can also be done by mail or telephone. Please be aware of the acceptable forms for payment when submitting your application or registering for the exam.

When a candidate has been declared eligible by The Board of Nursing they will receive an Authorization to Test or ATT. The candidate can now schedule an appointment to take the exam. This can be done by phone or online; visit the Pearson VUE website for details. As a final note, candidate's **MUST** test within the validity dates indicated on their ATT.

Now then, that wasn't so bad. Armed with the above information and accessing the suggested websites you should have no problem completing the final steps in the process of becoming a Registered Nurse. Good Luck on your exam!

### References:

Silvestri L: *Saunders Strategies for Success for the NCLEX-RN Examination*. Philadelphia, 2005, Elsevier Saunders.

<http://www.ncsbn.org>