

Breakthrough to Nursing: Remember Our Children



NSNA offers nursing students across America a rich history of the Breakthrough to Nursing. This was a stance adopted by our organization 40 years ago to welcome and support people from any color or culture into the profession of nursing. But can you tell me, what is occurring on the one-to-one viewpoint in this matter? Do you find yourself uncomfortable when you meet someone with a cultural tradition you have yet to encounter? Do you see the color of skin as a barrier to developing a relationship, friend, or business? Do you find yourself impatient when trying to understand someone's heavy accent? All of the programs and monies in the world will not accomplish what you can if you are an accepting and caring individual that desires to learn. Your outlook and the attitude you present on this subject at school, in your neighborhood, and in the workplace, can have a phenomenal impact or sadly, a devastating one. All in all, the image you reveal portrays the Image of Nursing.

An important aspect to consider in the Breakthrough to Nursing is the children. Children often have their thoughts formed in regards to their chosen profession by the time they enter the fifth grade. Yet guidance counselors do not suggest the nursing profession as an option to children in general. With all of the reports in regards to the nursing shortage and the increasing numbers of the aging population, offering the profession of nursing to the youth of our country needs to be a priority. Have you thought about presenting the profession of nursing to the elementary students in your community? Maybe you can speak directly with the guidance counselors. This could be a great community project for your school. Johnson and Johnson offer great tools like coloring books in English and Spanish and The Nursing Gang CD for elementary school children that you can order for free at www.discovernursing.com.

I would like to leave you with thoughts to this matter I penned a few years ago.

No matter the texture of my hair

Nor my skin, dark or fair.

The oceans of my eyes

~take notice~

There is nothing to despise.

There upon discovered lies my soul,

A beautiful treasure not many behold.

I'll take you by the hand

To a faraway distant land.

A place where the noble, true, and kind,

With yielding hearts, the nations, we will bind.

Kimberly DiYanni
Imprint Editor