

The Freed Mind



Adlai E. Stevenson Jr. gave a speech at the University of Wisconsin on October 8, 1952. He said: “If we value the pursuit of knowledge, we must be free to follow wherever that search may lead us. The free mind is not a barking dog, to be tethered on a ten foot chain.”

Nursing offers a vast array of opportunities to be discovered. Nurses are in high demand and the field is brimming with tantalizing career paths. Whatever field you decide to enter, regardless of your degree, be prepared to learn. Take it upon yourself to learn from those around you every day. Learn from the staff and the patients. Seek instruction through the continuing education courses offered in the workplace, and by pursuing the next degree you can. Freedom in America means something different to all of us, so take the liberty of the freedom to exercise your choice in becoming a better individual through the valuable lessons that come through the pursuit of knowledge.

The dog Adlai Stevenson was referring to may have been hungry and barking for the food that feeds the mind and soul, and forms our character through the

education received, the knowledge used, and the wisdom gained. He may have been barking to protect someone; as we would do when the role of advocacy becomes crucial. We can only be as strong in performing our duties as advocates as we are in the strength of our knowledge in how to best serve our clients.

Don't ever allow yourself to become stagnant in a position that you one day held so dear to your heart. Learn, grow, and take on more responsibilities and new options for your career. Remember your student days and cherish those memories. When the day comes that you can lead another student down the path of education, do so with the love you have for the profession of nursing and with the freedom to grow that belongs to all who pursue education.

May the New Year find you happy, healthy, and in pursuit of your dreams.

Kimberly DiYanni
Imprint Editor

(*Quote obtained from www.quotationspage.com/subjects/knowledge, accessed 12/3/04.)