

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED INVOLVEMENT OF NURSING STUDENTS WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

SUBMITTED BY: Wichita State University

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross (ARC) is in the business of saving lives by providing relief to victims of disasters and helping people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies, as well as providing one half of the nation's blood supply; and

WHEREAS, the ARC is one of the largest humanitarian organizations in the United States, supported by more than 1.3 million volunteers; and

WHEREAS, nurses have always played an integral role in the ARC, and the ARC has played a key role in the development of nursing in the United States and continues to have a strong affiliation with nurses; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the nursing profession's rich historical association with the ARC, nurses possess educational backgrounds, skills, and experience that continue to make them valuable leadership resources for increasing the capacity to deliver ARC services and projecting a professional, caring, and trusting image to the public; and

WHEREAS, the ARC has developed a variety of volunteer opportunities for nursing students, including providing services directly to the community, participating in leadership activities, and health education courses; and

WHEREAS, volunteering for the ARC provides many educational benefits for nursing students, schools of nursing, and faculty, in addition to providing valuable services to individual communities; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from their respective nursing programs, nursing students meeting the requirements set forth by the ARC will be inducted as Red Cross Nurses at the national level by the ARC, a tradition dating back to 1909; and

WHEREAS, there are over 1200 local chapters of the ARC across the United States, many of which rely on student nurse volunteers to serve in vital roles and increase their capacity for service delivery; and

WHEREAS, the ARC has composed a guidebook entitled *Make A Difference- Guidelines for Student Nurse Involvement in the American Red Cross*, which outlines student-friendly directions on how to initiate and implement involvement with ARC units; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its members to be actively involved with the ARC; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage utilization of its official Website as a link to gain access to the guidebook entitled *Make A Difference- Guidelines for Student Nurse Involvement in the American Red Cross*; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA partner with the ARC to provide recognition for students participating in ARC programs through *Imprint* and the annual NSNA awards ceremony, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA develop and maintain a liaison relationship with the ARC, Office of the Chief Nurse; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to develop and maintain a liaison relationship with their local ARC chapters; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the American Red Cross, Office of the Chief Nurse, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, and any other associations deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.