



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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NSNA's MidYear Keynote Speaker: First RN to Climb All Seven Summits

Brooklyn, NY. June 26, 2008. Patrick Hickey, DrPH, MSN, RN, CNOR, will be the Keynote Speaker at the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) MidYear Conference in Reno, NV, November 13-16-2008. The meeting, NSNA's 26th Annual Career Planning Conference, takes place at the John Ascuaga Nugget Casino Hotel.

Dr. Hickey became the first registered nurse to have climbed all Seven Summits when he reached the top of Mt. Everest on May 24, 2007. His love of climbing began on a trip to South America in 1993, when a chance encounter with a group of mountain climbers led to his climbing 20,000-foot Mt. Cotopaxi, in Quito, Ecuador. Since he accomplished his Seven Summits quest, the University of South Carolina College of Nursing, in Columbia, has established the Summit Scholarship for student nurses. Dr. Hickey's goal is to collect \$29,035, one dollar for each foot of altitude of Mt. Everest.

Dr. Hickey was unsure that he would become a successful nurse when he became a student. He initially struggled and wondered if he made the right career decision. He sought out one of his instructors and she took the time to mentor and challenge him, asking him to tap into his real potential. He wondered whether he'd made yet another mistake in approaching her. "Would I sink or swim," he asked himself. "In the end, I survived it and was a better person for it."

Not only did Dr. Hickey survive, but he has had a career that's spanned over three decades, having earned his RN license in 1976. He has worked in emergency and operating room nursing and is an instructor at the University of South Carolina. Known as a humorous and engaging speaker, Dr. Hickey's keynote speech, "Conquering Your Own Everest: Do You Have What It Takes?" promises to deliver a rousing kick-off to NSNA's MidYear Conference.

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NSNA is a membership organization with over 50,000 students in Associate Degree, Diploma, Baccalaureate, generic Masters and generic Doctoral programs preparing students for Registered Nurse licensure, as well as RNs in BSN completion programs.