



MAURITA J. WISNIEWSKI MSN '88, RN

Nurse Educator | Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing

Maurita J. Wisniewski found her calling when she became a nurse educator.

Throughout her career, Ms. Wisniewski worked as a staff nurse in the critical care units throughout the Pittsburgh area. While working toward her master's degree in nursing, she became the director of the coronary care unit at Allegheny General Hospital.

"There is no question that education makes a nurse a better nurse. With education, one begins to teach, educate, mentor and support, whether they are nursing staff or nursing students. Sharing knowledge makes it better for the nurse and improves outcomes for the patients we care for."

After deciding that nurse education was her career goal, Ms. Wisniewski began teaching both didactic and clinical nursing at UPMC Shadyside Hospital's School of Nursing, and later she served as the course coordinator for critical care at Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing.

Currently Ms. Wisniewski is a nurse educator at Ohio Valley, providing didactic and clinical education to first and second-year nursing students. She also provides basic cardiac rhythm classes as a critical care educator.

"During the last eight years, working at Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing has been a wonderful experience, allowing me to develop the course and teach young nursing students entering the profession," she said. "I continue to work at Ohio Valley in a casual position during my retirement, loving the work that I do to educate the next generation of nurses."

Ms. Wisniewski has served on the board of La Roche's Theta Mu chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the nursing honor society. Since Theta Mu's founding, she has served in a variety of positions from treasurer to president. Ms. Wisniewski also has served on the board of the Three Rivers Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses and the Greater Pittsburgh Nursing Research Conference.

For the past 20 years, she has volunteered as La Roche's Theta Mu Craft Show coordinator to raise funds.

"When you give up your time so that an organization can be successful, that is reward in itself," she said. "At Theta Mu we have given thousands of dollars for both nursing research and scholarships to deserving recipients. In addition, we are able to assist La Roche College and its Department of Nursing with educational material when they are in need."