

Black History Month Nurse Leader Spotlight



Stacy T. Kelly MSN RN CNML

Area of Oversight

Director of Nursing at Bethesda North Hospital overseeing ED, CDU, Critical Care and Telemetry

Education & Experience

Registered Nurse for over 29 years and with over 15 years of Nursing Leadership Experience.

Master of Science Degree in Nursing Administration (currently enrolled in the DNP program).

What's Your Motivation for Becoming a Nurse Leader?

Initially, my hero and role model inspired me to become a nurse, My mother! I saw how passionate, driven and determined she was in becoming a nurse, and it made me aspire to do the same.

I believe my faith, dedication and commitment to growing motivated me towards becoming a leader outside of the Charge Nurse role. It was also because of the support and encouragement from my family and the 4100 team at the time. The unit and I had experienced a great deal of leadership turnover and instability, and after much soul-searching and affirmation from a higher power, I began my journey into management. I have also had the support of other strong leaders that were willing to help manage me up and challenge me to keep going and growing as a leader!

How have Diversity and Inclusion Impacted your Career Path? Did it Hinder or Help?

My career path has been impacted by Diversity and Inclusion in many ways. If it were not for organizations and their strong efforts to drive a culture that supports D&I, I might not have been given a chance to share my talents as an individual and nurse leader.

I recall the day I was informed that I had been promoted to the role of Nurse Manager and how humbling that was for me. I rejoiced and gave thanks because I knew this was an extraordinary moment on so many levels. I remember thinking that right now, at this very moment, I believe I am one of few diverse individuals at this organization holding this title. What an honor! The hindrance comes when organizations are not open nor accepting, and supportive of diversity and inclusion because it limits the possibilities of better business performance, innovation, and creativity.

Who in Black History Inspires You?

There are many, but the few that have inspired me the most are - my father because he instilled in me the belief that I could do and be anything! All I had to do was work hard and believe in myself! I have also been inspired by Muhammad Ali because he gave up everything (money, title, fame, fortune, etc.) for what he believed, and it reminds me of a quote that I've heard many times throughout my life: "If you stand for nothing, you will fall for anything."

What's Your Best Advice?

Be humble. Never stop learning. Appreciate and embrace differences. Always work to build and grow others around you.

How Do You Engage with the Community?

- Active member of the Galen College of Nursing Advisory Board
- Active member of New Jerusalem Baptist Church and served on several church-sponsored programs such as the Usher Board and Elizabeth Mosely Scholarship Committee
- Greater Cincinnati Nurse Executives (GCNE) member
- Actively enrolled at Mount Saint Joseph University