



Silver Cross Hospital, a community medical care institution located in Joliet, provides a range of hospital services tailored to meet the needs of the public. The 304-bed acute care hospital has a team of approximately 400 physicians, 2,000 employees and 500 volunteers. Silver Cross serves the communities of Will County and the surrounding areas.

Medical-surgical nurses provide holistic care for adult patients in a broad range of settings, applying their expert knowledge to all body systems and disease processes. Interested in fostering professional growth, Silver Cross provided their medical-surgical nurses a unique opportunity to obtain Medical-Surgical Certification. With assistance through the Business Grants for Employee Training Program, Silver Cross offered scholarships for ten nurses to participate in a class preparing them for the certification exam and also educating them on a variety of medical-surgical topics such as gastrointestinal, pulmonary, cardiovascular, diabetes and endocrine disorders, genitourinary, renal, musculoskeletal, neurological and hematological aspects of patient care. Additionally, the certification class provided each individual with 14+ contact hours of continuing education credit for license renewal.

The interest was strong and the results amazing. Eighteen nurses applied for the ten scholarships. All of the ten nurses selected to participate in the program completed the course, sat for the four hour exam, and received their certification! These individuals have demonstrated enhanced bedside care, a higher level of critical thinking skills, improved rapport with physicians, and leadership capabilities – serving as mentors and resource nurses and, in one case, advancing to a supervisor.

"This was the first time we offered the certification course to our medical-surgical nurses, but we plan to do so again. In our competitive labor market, Silver Cross Hospital views this initiative as a retention strategy. By making an investment in our employees, we are showing that we value and support them and, in doing so, foster loyalty to Silver Cross Hospital," said Marilyn Paoella, Clinical Educator. "Equally important is the opportunity to enhance the quality of patient care through these newly certified professionals. Additionally, we recognize that improved nursing skills contribute to the hospital's overall performance in meeting its core quality measures."



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