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Dear Council on Teaching Members,

I am so grateful for the support I received from the Council on Teaching in Higher Education Funds to attend the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Assembly of School Faculty (ASF) Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona last February. This annual meeting brings anesthesia nursing program faculty together from all over the nation to discuss educational strategies and the shaping of the anesthesia nursing profession. It was a great opportunity to network with other program directors and educators. Here are a few highlights about what I learned and how I was able to share that knowledge to better the anesthesia nursing program.

One of the key objectives as the meeting this year was to discuss the value of curricular mapping in determining the delivery of didactic materials across the National Certification Exam (NCE) content domains. I learned how to map class objectives and content to the recently updated exam blueprint to analyze for gap in curricular content. This was extremely valuable in supporting the anesthesia nursing programs goal of a continuing a 100% NCE pass rate. This information was shared with program faculty and course adjustments were made. This was also useful information to share with the program director when we met to begin preparations for re-accreditation in 2020. This process will be used to map the program objectives and curriculum to our accrediting body standards.

Another key objective was to discuss emotional intelligence (EI) and its application to graduate school admissions. It was very interesting to learn about how emotional intelligence relates to a student's success and to how to measure it. People with high emotional intelligence understand what motivates them and recognize what hinders them. They communicate more effectively and are able to positively manage stress. I was able to share what I learned about EI with the anesthesia nursing program director and faculty at our admissions and progressions meeting. We discussed what EI skills would be most predictive of success in our program (for example, stress management, decision making and interpersonal skills). The existing interview questions were modified to incorporate questions related to EI skills. We used the new questions in our admissions interview process this past month. It was very helpful to look beyond academic ability and get a good idea of the candidate's ability to adapt to change and to accept constructive feedback.

Thank you again for the generous gift.

Sincerely,

Heather L Bair DNP, CRNA  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
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