**Week 3 of Nurses Month**

**Professional Development: Education…and then Some!**

**By: Nowai Keleekai-Brapoh PhD, RN, NPD-BC**

**NJSNA Region 4 VP of Education**

Happy Nurses Month 2022! The immeasurable contribution of nurses around the world has rightfully been cast into the spotlight over the past two years. We must continue celebrating the vital role that we play in delivering high-quality care, promoting wellness, informing policy, and driving innovation and research.

This year, the American Nurses Association is recognizing nursing all month with a different theme each week. I, personally, am thrilled that one of those themes is professional development. When we think of professional development, advanced education usually comes to mind. But do we stop developing after attaining advanced degrees? Certainly not! In our increasingly complex and integrated health care delivery landscape, we must be agile and prepared to adapt to rapid change. Engaging in continued professional development is the surest way to be prepared to meet these changing demands.

If you are reading this newsletter, you’re already on your way by joining NJSNA. I challenge you to commit to at least one other professional development activity this month:

* Join a professional organization for your specialty.
* Read a professional journal issue.
* Listen to a nursing innovation podcast.
* Participate in a webinar.
* Get certified.
* Become a mentor.
* Take a fitness class. Yes, maintaining wellness is necessary for professional development too!

Whatever you do, keep learning, keep growing, and remember that ***nurses make a difference…you make a difference!***

Warmest regards,

Nowai Keleekai-Brapoh

**May Nursing Specialty Recognitions**

[National Critical Care Awareness and Recognition Month](https://www.sccm.org/About-SCCM/Collaborations/Critical-Care-Awareness-Month)

[Oncology Nursing Month](https://www.ons.org/make-difference/celebrate-oncology-nursing/oncology-nursing-month)

[National School Nurse Day](https://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/home/schoolnurseday) – May 6

[International Nurses Day](https://www.icn.ch/what-we-do/campaigns/international-nurses-day) – May 12

[National Nurses Week](https://www.nursingworld.org/education-events/national-nurses-week/) – May 6-12

[Neuroscience Nurses Week](http://aann.org/membership/neuroscience-nurses-week) – May 15-21