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## Engaging Student Nurses in a Professional Association

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# Engaging Student Nurses in a Professional Association

Nicholas Craig

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## BACKGROUND

### Critical Care Nurses' Club (CCNC)

Provides students information on career paths and current issues in the fields of critical and acute care nursing as well as networking opportunities through its relationship with the Greater Portland Chapter of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (GPC-AACN).



Critical Care Nurses' Club members actively involved in monthly GPC Board meeting.

### My Entry

- Began active membership in Fall 2018
- Volunteered to work all three days at the GPC-AACN Critical Care Symposium in early November alongside fellow club members

## MY EXPERIENCE

At the conference I was able to sit in on wonderful talks delivered by very intelligent and passionate speakers as well as view poster presentations and endless medical vendors. My fellow club members and I were able to meet and talk with many influential nurses in the Portland area and even be interviewed by the President of the AACN Lisa Riggs! During this interview we discussed how to further engage student nurses in professional organizations as we all felt it has a profound impact on both those students while in school and their engagement in the field after graduation. Out of this incredible impromptu interview came lots of praise from the President and other influential members in the room and it was clear that we had represented ourselves and Linfield very well. Additionally, I was able to speak briefly with Elizabeth Bridges who is a prominent nursing researcher based out of UW Medical Center, during which I was able to ask her about ways to get into nursing research, which is an area of interest for me.



Myself (in white) and fellow club members being interviewed by the President of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses Lisa Riggs



(left to right) Dr. Elizabeth Bridges, Amy Montgomery, Bryan Isaacson, Lisa Riggs, Myself, Rachel Robinson, Dr. Michelle Dedeo, Christine Schulman, Lara Kotelyanets

## TAKEAWAYS

- A glimpse at a bright future in nursing
- A new perspective on what my school experience can do for me
- Reduced anxiety and increased excitement about performance in school
- Solidified future involvement in the Critical Care Nurses' Club of which I am now the proud President
- New opportunities to grow as a leader and as a budding professional
- An answer to the question "what is this [school] all for"

## Future Plans

- Submit a grant application to fund research on student involvement
- Establish CNCC as the first student affiliate chapter of the AACN
- Help my fellow students find similar exposure/ networking opportunities
- Continue Linfield's leadership in Portland-Area student critical care engagement