



## Executive Summary:

### A Statewide Cardiovascular Nurse Specialty Educational Program

#### Summary

The Cardiovascular Nurse Specialty (CVNS) Educational Program provides a unique opportunity to decrease the practice-academic gap related to practice readiness of the newly licensed registered nurse or nurses new to the cardiovascular practice arena. The anticipated challenges of the changing demographics of registered nurses, aging population, and health care system reform indicate a critical need for educational programs that support lifelong learning and organizational transformation that meet and/or exceed safe quality care outcomes. The Cardiovascular Nurse Specialist Program provides a collaborative approach between academic and practice institutions to advance the nurse from novice to expert with the intentional outcome of passing the certification exam for the cardiovascular specialty area. According to the Nursing Executive Center Advisory Board, only 10% of practice executive believe newly licensed nurses are practice ready. Thus, it is critical for academic and educational programs to “work even more closely together to prepare the next generation of nurses” (2008, pg. ix).

The CVNS program provides an exemplar of best-practice and intentional approaches to onboarding new nurses to the cardiovascular practice arena. In collaboration, practice and academic subject matter experts developed an innovative program that focuses on the American Nurses Association (ANA) *Cardiovascular Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* (2015) as well as the Nurse of the Future core competencies (as adopted by the state of Arizona)

#### Problem Statement

Nurses entering specialized practice arenas are not well prepared and/or supported for transition into practice. This lack of readiness may lead to decreased confidence and competence in knowledge, skills, and attitudes as well as poor patient outcomes.

#### Background Information

The Future of Nursing Report *Leading Change Advancing Health* recommends increasing the proportion of BSN nurses to 80% by 2020 and implementing nurse residency programs. Providing a seamless transition from the academic institution to professional nursing is imperative to meet the demands of a highly complex health care system. Therefore, the emphasis from local, state and national nursing leaders is the future preparation of a nursing workforce that has intellectual and organizational competence.

#### Goals and Outcome

The goal of the Arizona Heart CVNS program is to prepare nurses with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to demonstrate competent clinical performance/expertise of cardiovascular nurses and improve patient care outcomes.

- ***The CVNS adheres to the ANA Cardiovascular Nursing Scope and Standards and Nurse of the Future Core Competencies to deliver high quality safe care to the cardiovascular patient population.***

#### References:

American Nurses Association. (2015). *Cardiovascular nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Nursesbooks.org.  
Nursing Executive Center (2008). *Bridging the preparation-practice gap volume I: Quantifying new graduate nurse improvement needs*. The Advisory Board Company, Washington, D.C.