



## RN Residency Clinical Excellence Day

Nearly two dozen posters were created and displayed at last week's RN Residency Clinical Excellence Day – an activity developed in response to suggestions from RN residents.

“Our nurse residents told us in February that while they appreciated the investment in their career development, they would like to create evidence-based poster presentations about a quality project being undertaken in their own departments,” said Carla Yost, system chief nursing officer.

“The resulting presentations were incredible,” she added.

For example, a poster presentation by a team of RN residents serving in Pediatrics was on an initiative designed to improve patient satisfaction by communicating and then tailoring approaches to pain management to the likes and dislikes of the patient.

“Having a protocol for sharing among the team something as simple as the patient preferring to take their medication with applesauce can make a world of difference,” said Yost, who noted that this effort led to significant increases in the unit's patient satisfaction scores.

“It's a proactive response that gives young patients and their parents a sense of control while they are dealing with medical issues and an environment that makes them feel as if they have no control.”

A poster presentation by a team of RN residents in the Emergency Department was on how using order sets developed around best practices is helping reduce sepsis mortality at Via Christi, whose sepsis mortality rate is now the lowest among all Ascension hospitals.

Another poster presentation by a team of RN residents serving on 7N was on chemo precautions and how following them not only creates a safer environment for patients and their families, but for the staff delivering that care.

“Missy Grier, who serves as a clinical nurse specialist, did a wonderful job in organizing and coordinating this tremendously successful event,” said Yost, for which the poster presentations can be viewed on the Source.

Planning is under way to further tailor initiatives designed to support the educational goals of our new and current RNs to ensure that the time participants invest in learning activities is relative to their day-to-day bedside practice.

“We're committed to continued support for our nurses' professional competency and growth,” said Yost. “We're also committed to listening and responding to your feedback to ensure that the support that is offered is what's most needed.”