

Entrepreneurs of nursing
by Nancy Dickenson-Hazard

Entrepreneur is defined in *Webster's* as "one who organizes, promotes and manages risks for an activity." Sure sounds like a nurse to me! Every day, nurses assess, manage and make decisions about the risks to someone's wellbeing. They organize health care, promote patient realization of optimum levels of wellness, *and* they do this in a myriad of settings and roles. In essence, nurses exercise a spirit of entrepreneurship to keep people healthy.

In my mind, being an entrepreneur is not necessarily equated with starting your own business, although that is certainly a contemporary modality. But I believe it is more about being creative and innovative enough to solve problems and identify solutions (one of which may be a business venture) to the issues. This ability is further bolstered by willingness to assume responsibility for directing the actions—and yes, the risks—toward favorable outcomes.

As technology increasingly takes over the routine needs of health care, the work of nurses will involve more innovation—seeing things in new ways and responding to patients and systems by changing the way things are done. Each nurse will have to be an entrepreneur and influence others to realize his or her own vision.

The abilities needed by this type of nurse are of an adaptive and technical nature. To be adaptive, the nurse entrepreneur must develop fluidity, flexibility and a sense of self. An intellectual prowess will be essential, as well as brokering the knowledge they possess. To be technically competent, nurse entrepreneurs must understand and manage the "how to's" of technology, economics, administration and policy.

I believe many of us have the spirit and artful skills of entrepreneurship. I feel most certain you will discover the tenets of entrepreneurship at work.

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