

Dr. Ernest Grant Letter to Nursing Students

"You are entering the best and most trusted profession that is known to mankind. You are also entering at a time that is extremely challenging, but also transformational for the profession. I would say to you as students and future leaders of the profession (notice that I said leaders, because I expect each of you to do just that...become leaders), that you soak up as much information that you can...reflect on your day and ask yourself, "what did I learn today and how can I use that to make me a better nurse...a better person and a better member of my community and to my fellow man?"

I would also encourage you to be the change that you want to see...in other words, change happens because someone spoke up or questioned why can't we do something another way...remember the definition of insanity! We must all challenge ourselves to embrace innovation and technology to achieve better outcomes and professional autonomy.

Finally, my last words to you is that the very first thing you should do after you have received word that you have passed the NCLEX (and you will), is that you IMMEDIATELY join your state nursing association and the ANA (in most cases you can join both for one price) and your specialty area of practice association. Those three memberships are essential to you and your career. It is through professional nursing membership that you are truly able to be the change agents for the profession! All the best!"

Ernest J. Grant, PhD, RN, FAAN
President, American Nurses Association