

## 2021 MercyOne Legend Brenda Epstein, BSN, RN-BC



The MercyOne Legend award honors a colleague who exemplifies MercyOne's Mission, Values and Cultural Beliefs. We are proud to present the 2021 MercyOne Legend award to Brenda Epstein, BSN, RN-BC, a clinical education specialist in Clinical Practice, Informatics and Education (CPIE).

Brenda is a mentor and educator for many in the MercyOne family. For many new to MercyOne North Iowa, Brenda was the welcoming face that started them on their journey at nursing orientation. She also is a mentor to many colleagues, guiding them in learning new skills.

Brenda encourages all to believe in the philosophy that every question is worth answering. She spends everyday teaching those around her how to be better educators. If she can't answer a question, she finds someone who can. Brenda takes all learning styles and skills into consideration when teaching or mentoring. She wants those around her to succeed.

Brenda is American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) board-certified and obtained her Nursing Professional Development certificate. Everyone around Brenda appreciates her calming presence. Brenda maintains her composure even in times of high stress. Her positive attitude makes every project better. She was instrumental in facilitating successful competency events while adhering to COVID-19 restrictions. She works diligently to make sure patient care colleagues complete their

mandatory education. Over the years, she has coordinated countless large events like the Nursing Competency Validation and Cardiac Validation Testing. She always takes colleagues schedules into account when planning events. The life and schedule of a bedside nurse is never forgotten.

People are always the center of Brenda's attention. Colleagues and friends know she is always open to questions. Her willingness to patiently listen helps others grow their knowledge and careers. Brenda supports and cares for people even when they didn't know they needed it. She is sought as a resource and looked to as a mentor for those on the Nursing and Patient Education Council and for the Unit Based Educators.

No matter the situation, Brenda never loses sight of one of her most important values; always looking at the bigger picture. She challenges those around her to look deeper at the problems they are facing. Settling isn't the way she solves problems. Brenda wants to dig deep and find the right answer, not the easy one.

Brenda Epstein has had an integral role in educating our colleagues at MercyOne North Iowa. After 43 years of diligent service, she will retire from her role in May 2021. Everyone will miss her personalized care and vast nursing knowledge. We will truly miss our 2021 MercyOne Legend.