What are the challenges you encounter and how do you overcome them?

The acuity of our patients can be challenging. Because my facility performs cardiac surgery on high-risk individuals, caring for them poses its own set of difficulties. Luckily, there is a strong culture of collaboration on my unit. The nurses, physicians, and physician assistants work seamlessly to overcome challenges.

What has your journey as a nurse been like?

Being a nurse has been one of the most incredible experiences in my life thus far. Looking back on the past 4 years, I cannot believe how far I've come as a professional. I have learned to be patient, compassionate, careful, and selfless. I have held patients' hands as they took their last breath, and hugged family members as they received information that their loved one had just survived lifesaving surgery. As a nurse, I often feel like I've been chosen to be part of such a special group of individuals. Last year, I was nominated as the cochairperson of a career recognition program that helps acknowledge bedside nurses who go above and beyond. In 2013, I will be moving up to the chairperson position; this is one of my proudest accomplishments so far in my career.

At the end of a busy day, how do you find balance in your life?

My loving husband and my beautiful 8-month-old daughter are the light of my life and keep me grounded. Becoming a nurse has helped me learn how to juggle being a wife, mom, student, and professional. Also, I have made some incredible friends who are nurses, and I can share the physical and emotional demands of being a nurse with them. We help each other stay balanced as well.

How has AACN played a role in your career?

As my affiliated association, AACN is important to me and has given me the tools and resources to become a certified nurse. I continue to improve my skills and knowledge as a critical care nurse thanks to several AACN publications. Reading about the success and professionalism of other nurses has been a motivating factor in pursuing my masters of science in nursing.
I Am a Critical Care Nurse
Jenna Blind

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