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Images of Nursing from West Michigan: A Photo Essay

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IMAGES OF NURSING from WEST MICHIGAN

The image of nursing is diverse and complex, yet few recent studies consider how nurses view their professional image. Most focus on the public perception of nursing, which has shown to be heavily influenced by traditional imagery and negative stereotypes. My study aimed to uncover how West Michigan nurses perceive the image of nursing. Via an online survey, nurses submitted an original photo and written narrative.

These photos present nurses as professionals who possess multifaceted roles and identities as they strive to have a positive influence on humanity. Nurses were seen as strong, knowledgeable, creative and critical thinkers who address patient needs and act as sources of peace, care, and compassion. These images defy stereotypes and reveal the real nursing that needs to be communicated to the public.

-- Aldina Mahmutovic



"As a nurse, my main focus is to assist my patients in the restoration of health...this can be very challenging and requires thinking outside-the-box to meet each person where they are in life."



"Nursing is about caring for others. Showing compassion during times when individuals are most vulnerable. Nursing is about making a difference...Bringing hope to someone who is hopeless or celebrating times of joy."

“Nursing is about making a difference.”



“To me...[nursing] sums up the whole human experience.”



"Nursing to me is looking at the whole picture when working with patients...Each person is unique and changing...This "global view" may bring into focus other issues that the patient is dealing with. Stepping back to take it all in helps in so many different ways. Also, as nurses, we need to remember to take in the scenery and breathe."

“The constant vigilance, care of others, promotion of safety, and quick, nimble thinking and actions of this superhero represent nursing at its finest.”



"At the heart of nursing is the individual relationship between the nurse and client. The nurse provides care in many ways but the most important way is by getting to know the client's needs."

“Also, as nurses, we need to remember to take in the scenery and breathe.”



"Working in the emergency department, I often see people at some of the worst moments of their lives...I am constantly monitoring the situation and intervening quickly to promote safe outcomes...The constant vigilance, care of others, promotion of safety, and quick, nimble thinking and actions of this superhero represent nursing at its finest."