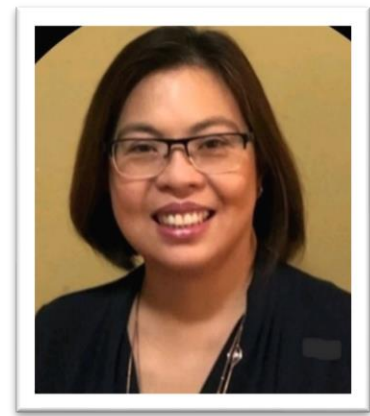


# *Nurse Recognition Award*

MARY JANE GENUINO

DNP, RN-BC

FELICIAN UNIVERSITY



Dr. Mary Jane Genuino is an Assistant Professor at Felician University and also works per diem as an RN in a Neurology/Ventilator Unit.

Dr. Genuino's cheerful demeanor, a quest for knowledge, and willingness to go the extra mile have positively impacted the people she engages with professionally, and in the community. As an instructor, her students know they can reach out to her without hesitation to understand a difficult concept without judgment. Her impact is felt with her students and is demonstrated through her positive student evaluations at the end of each term.

Dr. Genuino leadership roles are countless, having made a significant impact in many areas of nursing. One stellar example included taking over the position as department chair of a local college's Nursing and PCT program within weeks of the PN programs scheduled re-accreditation site visit and within several months of the PN to BSN program's initial visit for full accreditation. The process was not easy in any ordinary circumstance and being new in her position it was even more challenging, but her efforts resulted in a successful outcome with full accreditation.

A devastating, life changing moment happened for Dr. Genuino and her family. Experiencing loss can provide a person with a different perspective in life. After losing her husband to COVID complications, Dr. Genuino started a support group online for widowed nurses who lost their spouses to the virus. She felt that the grief they experienced is more compounded due to their work and the patients they see daily and having a forum to talk to those who genuinely understand was important. And she is glad to have meet nurses who have suffered the same kind of loss as she did.

Dr. Genuino decided during this time of unthinkable loss that she would return back to the bedside. She directly cared for patients in a COVID-19 unit in a hospital where she had previously worked and took on 12-hour shifts during weekends, while she also continued to be the College Chair of the Nursing and Patient Care Technician program. In addition to working in these many nursing roles, she also continued to teach online courses while the college campuses remained closed due to the pandemic. In her own words, "It's more important than ever to train the next generation of healthcare workers. They're so desperately needed in all areas of care."

Dr. Genuino has edited and contributed to a chapter in the 5th edition of *Critical Care Nursing Made Incredibly Easy* by Wolter Kluwer. Her research on moral distress amongst critical care nurses who cared for COVID patients, was also a cathartic exercise. She thanks Felician University for providing her the opportunity to complete the research. She is an editorial member of the *Lupine Online Journal of Nursing and Healthcare*. She is currently the president of NJSNA for Region 2 and co-chair of the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey's Education Committee. She is also a member of Action Together NJ — a grassroots organization involved in lobbying for political change and other issues affecting NJ nationwide.

**Message from Mary Jane:** I would like to thank my family, especially my daughters, Geraldine and Grace. I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Tess Medina for being a great mentor and friend.