

Forensic Nursing - Excellence



Rhonda Boyett

LOCATION: Woodbridge, VA, USA

WORK SETTING: Hospital

NURSING ROLE: Forensic Nursing Program Coordinator at Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center

Rhonda has been active in various forensic nursing roles since 1992. She had an unusual start to her Forensic career when she was consulted by a lawyer who was instructing her criminal justice class. She assisted with education of the legal team about DNA. Between 1992 and 2001 she did legal nurse consulting, until she discovered the SANE nursing program at INOVA Fairfax, in Falls Church, Virginia. In 2001 she attended a SANE training and has never looked back. Rhonda has been a member of the IAFN and the IAFN Virginia Chapter since 2001. She has been an active member of her state chapter serving as board member and is currently immediate past president. Rhonda has received multiple awards for her work from the Virginia Chapter in Excellence in Forensic Nursing and the Dream Team award. She has been the coordinator of the Forensic Nursing Program at Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center since 2002. The fact that Rhonda has been able to keep this program alive for the past 15 years as a part time coordinator is nothing short of amazing. Rhonda is always willing to be a resource for new nurses and her community. She currently mentors new forensic nurses and continues to develop her relationship with her local police department. Rhonda is part of a local task force to combat Human Trafficking and on a Domestic Violence prevention council. Recently she implemented a 10 hours forensic education training program for all new Emergency Department RN's to improve recognition and identification of victims of violence. She has provided opportunities to nurses from other program to clinical competencies required for their SANE training. This training has kept SANE nurses available in rural communities. Rhonda is selfless and willing to share her expertise and wisdom to continue to grow the profession of Forensic Nursing

