

In celebration of its 15th anniversary,
the Doctor of Nursing Practice Nurse Anesthesia specialty presents

Top 15 Things You Might Not Know About Nurse Anesthesia

- 1** Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are credentialed anesthesia providers who safely administer approximately **45 million anesthetics annually** to patients in the United States.
- 2** Nurses have been providing anesthesia care to patients in the United States **for more than 150 years**, but the CRNA credential was established in 1956.
- 3** In 1909, the **first nurse anesthesia program** was established at Saint Vincent's Hospital in Portland, Oregon.
- 4** Each graduate of a nurse anesthesia educational program must pass the **national certification examination** before they can be certified as a CRNA.
- 5** Nearly **54,000 CRNAs** are credentialed in the United States, using every aspect of their education, training, knowledge, and skills to keep patients safe during surgery.
- 6** CRNAs are qualified to administer **every type of anesthesia** to any patient in any health care setting.
- 7** CRNAs deliver comprehensive quality care using **all accepted anesthesia techniques**, including general, regional, sedation, local, and pain management.
- 8** CRNAs are the main providers of anesthesia to the **U.S. Armed Forces**, especially on the battlefield.
- 9** CRNAs are the primary providers of anesthesia care in rural America, enabling health care facilities in these **medically underserved areas** to offer obstetrical, surgical, pain management, and trauma stabilization services.
- 10** Anesthesia care is nearly **50 times safer** than it was in the early 1980s.
- 11** Numerous outcome studies have demonstrated that there is **no difference in the quality of care** provided by CRNAs and their physician counterparts.
- 12** Legislation passed by Congress in 1986 made nurse anesthetists the first nurses to be accorded **direct reimbursement rights** under the Medicare program.
- 13** CRNAs are **prepared at the doctoral level** in all nurse anesthesia programs across the United States.
- 14** According to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, about 11% of CRNAs nationally identify as minorities. At UMSON, 50-60% of each Nurse Anesthesia specialty cohort is composed of **students from diverse backgrounds**.
- 15** *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked nurse anesthetist among the **top 10 "best jobs"** for three years running.

**EVERY BREATH, EVERY HEARTBEAT, and EVERY SECOND,
CRNAs are there, ensuring patients remain safe during surgery.**