

2025 VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARDS



Lifetime Membership Award

Myra Ellis

Myra Ellis, MSN, RN, CCRN, has worked in critical care throughout her 46-year nursing career. She has been a clinical nurse IV at Duke University Hospital in Durham, North Carolina, since 1995, and has worked in the CTICU as a bedside nurse, charge nurse, clinical research nurse and educator. Ellis implemented a protocol for resuscitation of patients who arrest following cardiac surgery.

Most recently, Ellis worked part-time, providing education for cardiac surgery nurses and providers in the Duke Hospital and Duke Heart Network.

Ellis joined AACN in 1988 and has held various volunteer positions, including the nominating committee, the CMC/CSC Practice Analysis Task Force, and creating certification review materials. She was a Clinical Resource Task Force volunteer (2014-2018) and worked on clinical resources, including practice alerts and toolkits. She co-authored a Critical Care Nurse article featuring an interprofessional quality improvement project at Duke on reducing intubation time in adult cardiothoracic surgery patients. She also volunteered abroad to assist with cardiac surgery in underserved countries.

Ellis is currently serving a one-year term as chair of the AACN Certification Corporation Board of Directors (2024-2025), and previously served a two-year term as chair-elect and a director (2018-2021), including one year as secretary/treasurer.