

Robyn Begley, DNP, RN, NEA-BC



Name:

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Hometown:

Folsom, New Jersey. However, I am based in Chicago.

Current job:

American Organization for Nursing Leadership chief executive officer, senior vice president and chief nursing officer of the American Hospital Association

Family:

I am the oldest of 6 sisters. I learned persuasion and supervision skills early in life. I am married to my husband Jim and have 3 children—Chris (Aby), Marisa (Mike), and Jessica (financé Josh)—and 4 grandchildren.

Education:

Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New Brunswick, New Jersey, master's degree from Widener University, Chester, Pennsylvania, and bachelor's degree from Georgetown University in Washington, DC. I am board certified as an advanced nurse executive with the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

First job in nursing:

I began my career as a staff nurse in obstetrics at Framingham Union Hospital, Massachusetts.

What people, philosophy, books have influenced your thinking:

I am blessed to have many great influences in my life. My parents were incredibly encouraging, particularly in regard to higher education. My grandmother was my role model as a working mother. Widowed with a young child, she went to work on Wall Street in the 40's. I always admired her work ethic and ability to see the good in people.

The Starfish Thrower by Loren Eiseley. Dorothea Orem's theory of self-care is the lens by which I see nursing care. As a health care leader, I have the opportunity to advocate for patients, nurses, and communities in a different way than I did as a clinical nurse. My first CEO, George Lynn, was probably the most influential person in my career development and taught me that as a nurse leader, I could influence other health care leaders and lead nurses, who in turn, care for many patients.

My best advice to aspiring leaders:

Don't be afraid to take a few risks! Perfection is the enemy of good. Just get started. Don't get paralyzed in the planning process.

One thing I want to learn about or do:

Travel.

One word to describe you:

I would say tenacious. Others might describe me as optimistic.

One word that best describes your leadership:

Inclusive.

Greatest accomplishment:

As CNO, I led AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center to achieve the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet designation 4 times. However, my stellar team deserves all of the credit.