

Peak Vista Community Health Centers APRN Fellowship Looks to Improve Health Care and Access for People Facing Barriers to Care

As an organization focused on enhancing the health of people and the community through a motivated, professional, and caring staff, committed to strategic partnerships, Peak Vista Community Health Centers recognizes the value of American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) accreditation programs. On a mission to provide exceptional health care to people facing access barriers through clinical programs and education, ANCC's Practice Transition Accreditation Program™ (PTAP) became the next big focus of achievement for the APRN Fellowship program.

"It was important for us as an organization to demonstrate to our community and our fellows a commitment to quality by working toward accreditation for our APRN Fellowship," said Kaleen Cullen, PhD, APRN-BC, Fellowship Program Director at Peak Vista Community Health Centers. "This year, we are honored to have earned accreditation from PTAP." This accreditation will allow Dr. Cullen to continue her vision for the APRN Fellowship, which is to provide immersion clinical training in a safe and supportive environment. It will also help Peak Vista Community Health Centers continue its care for approximately 90,000 mostly low-income families with complex health care needs.

PTAP is now a big part of providing exceptional care for the underserved through the APRN Fellowship program. Being able to enhance its fellowship with infusion of diversity in culture, education, nursing philosophy, and experience, the Peak Vista Community Health Centers will continue to choose fellows who bring their own passion and commitment. "Because we are passionate and committed to what we do, currently 80 percent of our fellows remain at Peak Vista in family practice after the fellowship."

For anyone considering accrediting their practice transition program, Dr. Cullen advises to take it slow and use the process for program improvement. "We found out it isn't a sprint, it's a marathon," she said.

The APRN Fellowship can now use its new accreditation as part of the process with helping staff nurses to improve health care and access for people facing barriers to care. Proud of its recent accreditation, Peak Vista Community Health Centers looks to a brighter future and constant focus on the improvement process. "More important to us than the accomplishment was what we learned along the way to improve our program," said Cullen.

Visit www.nursecredentialing.org/CaseforPTAP for more information about PTAP and to read about other PTAP organizations.



About Peak Vista Community Health Centers

Peak Vista Community Health Centers has proudly served Colorado communities since 1971. Originally, our center began as an all-volunteer organization – open just two nights a week for walk-in patients. Today, we proudly serve more than 86,000 patients in Colorado's Pikes Peak and East Central Plains regions. For 40+ years, our commitment to reducing individuals' and families' access barriers has never wavered. We continue to build on our founding ideals and expand to meet the changing needs of our patient population. Our history is a story of community support, strong partnerships and dedicated staff.

About the ANCC Accreditation Program

The ANCC Accreditation program recognizes the importance of high-quality continuing nursing education (CNE), skills-based competency, and nurse practice transition programs. Around the world, ANCC-accredited organizations provide nurses with the knowledge and skills to help improve care and patient outcomes. Accreditation by ANCC validates that a nursing residency or fellowship program has been operationalized to meet ANCC standards, regardless of whether the curriculum is developed in-house or purchased from a provider. Use of any course/material/service does not imply eligibility for or successful performance in the submission of credential applications, nor is it a requirement to qualify for accreditation. ANCC does not endorse any products or services.

About ANCC

ANCC is the world's largest and most prestigious nurse credentialing organization. ANCC's internationally renowned credentialing programs certify nurses in specialty practice areas; recognize healthcare organizations for promoting safe, positive work environments through the Magnet Recognition Program® and the Pathway to Excellence® Program; and accredit providers of continuing nursing education, skills competency programs, and transition-to-practice programs. ANCC provides leading-edge information and education services and products to support its core credentialing programs. ANCC continues to drive nursing excellence, quality care, and improved outcomes globally through innovation, research, and operational positive practice.

ANCC is part of ANA Enterprise, which comprises American Nurses Association, American Nurses Credentialing Center, and American Nurses Foundation.