

Interview from Royal College Day 2023

Niamh Clancy

My name's Niamh Clancy. I'm the Deputy Co-Course Director for the Certificates in Advanced Veterinary Nursing at the Royal Veterinary College, and I'm an anesthesia RVN at the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals.

Yeah, it's really, really great to win the Quality Improvement Knowledge Award. We've worked really, really hard with our students, making sure that they're being advocates for quality improvement and practice, really getting nurses involved in knowledge summary so that they can make adequate and big changes in their practices, that can really help with patient care as well.

So within the Certificates of Advanced Veterinary Nursing that we provide at the RVC, we really wanted to develop a lot of quality improvement into it as part of their formative assessment activities. So what we provided them with is the ability to do knowledge summaries themselves within the course, and also over the course of the whole year, they'll do a clinical audit and practice, and we really hope this will help with their training and also move their practices forward into doing evidence-based nursing care. So Perdi Welsh, our Course Director and Director of Veterinary Nursing at the RVC put us forward for this award, because I think she was very proud of the work that all of us do and what all of our students have achieved as well within the past year and a half of the course we've been running. So yeah, it's just a really good opportunity to showcase how good our students have been doing.

Yeah, I think definitely it's been a huge thing for our team and being able to celebrate it. I think particularly being a nurse-led team within the RVC, it's been a huge big up for nurses within the RVC, particularly that we found out in May, which was Veterinary Nursing Awareness Month. So I think all of that together really helped to improve morale. I mean, we already have good high morale anyway, but it really helped pick us up even more and let us get the name out of veterinary nursing at the RVC as well.

I would always tell people, "Make sure to nominate yourself, nominate others, nominate everyone that you possibly can." I think that we undermine ourselves a lot of the time and don't tend to be our own champions. But I think if you know anyone in practice who is doing

lots to improve quality improvements, then definitely nominate them, and don't be too shy to nominate yourself as well.

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