



*In 2021 we inaugurated the **ERICKSON KLINE MOERIKE NURSE PRACTITIONER PRECEPTOR AWARD**, made possible through an endowment established by Mr. Mitch Erickson and Mr. Martin Kline to recognize excellent preceptors in our Masters of Nursing-Nurse Practitioners program. Mitch Erickson, a School of Nursing alum, attended the virtual gala to present the awards, and introduced them with the following words.*

My mother, Bonnie Moerike never graduated from high school, but as a single parent completed her GED and went on to complete two associate degrees in business management and veterinary medical assistance over her working career. She was an inspiration to me and demonstrated the importance of those who support your academic achievements.

As many of you know, securing sufficient clinical placements for advanced nursing practice can be a challenging task in addition to the demands of shepherding the professional development of a NP student in practice. Ensuring these placements are consistently of high calibre adds to this challenge. It is the preceptor who sets the tone of clinical expertise acquisition across the many clinical specialties NPs practice.

To be a preceptor means your own tasks are sometimes put on hold and moments of high stress must be tempered and transformed into teaching opportunities. It requires the capacity to share your expertise in different ways to accommodate different learning styles. In short, it means self-reflection on your own practice and who you are as a health care professional.

I have found precepting and mentorship worthy endeavors to ensure the future of advanced practice nursing values the privilege of patient interactions and imparts a framework of patient-valued partnership. As a preceptor, it energizes and encourages you as initial successes emerge. It has been a career-long effort to encourage and support the importance of the preceptor role.

