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Congratulations on your upcoming pinning ceremony and graduation! This document will serve as a guide and is designed to provide information on the evolution of the pinning ceremony and briefly describe your role in preparation for pinning and graduation.

### **Pinning ceremony**

The tradition of the nursing pin and the ceremonial pinning of today, originated in the 1860's at the Nightingale School of Nursing at St. Thomas Hospital in London. Having been recently awarded The Red Cross of St. George for her selfless service to the injured and dying in the Crimean War, Florence chose to extend this honor to her most outstanding graduate nurses by presenting each of them with a medal for excellence.

The Wolverton Royal Hospital in England initiated the tradition of presenting all graduates with a badge. The first pin was presented to the graduating class of 1880 at the Bellevue Hospital of Nursing in New York City. The pin presented to graduates was both beautiful and symbolic. It featured a crane in the center for vigilance, encircled with a band of blue for constancy, and an outer band of red for mercy and relief of suffering. Dr. Opas reports that by 1916 the practice of pinning new nurses was common in schools throughout the United Kingdom and North America.

The nursing pin for the School of Nursing at Platt College was designed by the first graduating class in the spring of 2008 and incorporates symbols of their choice. The scroll represents a commitment to academic rigor and the traditional nursing lamp on the right represent devotion to the care of individuals, families, and communities.

### **Lighting of the Lamp**

History was made during the Crimean War when Florence took 38 women to Turkey to nurse sick and wounded British soldiers. The British government had never before permitted women to do this. Because of her selfless duty during the Crimean War, Florence Nightingale became known as the "lady with the lamp." As a tribute to Florence's dedication, the lamp icon became symbolic of nursing. The lamp was a symbol of the care and devotion the nurse administers to the sick and injured in the practice of nursing. After nurses were pinned, Nightingale would light a lamp and pass the flame to each nurse as they said the Pledge.

## **Platt Student Nurses Association (PSNA)**

Pinning Ceremony is a time for celebration for your accomplishments. The Platt College Student Nurses Association is proud to sponsor and host the ceremony. This honor is one of our main objectives as an organization. The PSNA and Platt College will inform you of the date, location, and time as it is provided by Platt College Administration. PSNA and Platt College will organize the pinning and graduation ceremony including location, date, and time. There will be one PSNA delegate meeting with you to gather information from you and will serve as the main contact with the faculty in relaying information. The location will be centrally located, within proximity to the school, and may vary according to the size of your pinning class.

### **Participants Responsibilities**

You will be given a graduation order form in which you will notify Platt College of your decision to attend the graduation ceremony. On this form, you will provide your height measurements for your graduation gown, as well as the number of guests attending. Please note there is a maximum of 10 guests per graduate, subject to change due to graduating class size, space availability, or other factors. This form must be returned within a timely manner in order to obtain your graduation gown. Failure to do so may result in the graduate having to purchase or rent his/her own graduation regalia.

Platt College supplies a graduation gown, cap, and tassel for the ceremony. Any additional graduation regalia (i.e., veteran's sashes) must be approved by Platt College and will be at the graduate's own expense. Graduates are responsible for picking up regalia from Platt College and bringing the regalia to the ceremony.

You will be given a pinning order form in which you may choose the pin to purchase for the ceremony. The full payment is due at the time the order is placed.

You may choose the individual who will pin you at the ceremony; this can be a family member, educator or a friend. The PSNA leader will notify you of the date these names are required.

There will be the Nightingale Pledge to be conducted by Dean of Nursing.

As a group you can choose to have:

1. A class representative that will communicate with PSNA after the first meeting.
2. A power point showing your class and faculty
  - Power point will include 6-10 pictures for each participant
  - A Letter of appreciation or thanks to whom you wish with no more than 250 words
  - The power point will be around 15 minutes depending on size of class
3. Up to two guest speakers may be chosen in addition to a Master of Ceremonies (i.e. Faculty member)

4. A theme or topic may be selected and provided to the guest speakers.
5. Up to four songs that represent your class that can be played during the slide show; class vote confirms song selection.

Graduates should plan on showing up to the ceremony at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled graduation time.

### **Ceremony Event**

This will include addressing of the faculty, guest speaker, presentation, pinning, lighting of lamps, and Nightingale pledge. Graduates will be recognized for any academic honors and/or awards they have received, and will also receive their graduation diplomas. The ceremony will be followed with a short reception of coffee and cake provided by PSNA.

**Remember this is your day.** We are recognizing and celebrating your accomplishment of completing a dynamic nursing program with faculty, family and friends. **Congratulations!!!!**