

Dear Florence Whipple Scholarship Award Committee,

My name is Andrea Laursen. I am a senior in the BSN program at Lewis-Clark State College, and currently the Idaho Student Nurses Association President.

In my role as ISNA President, I am able to take on the leadership that is required of me and take a proud ownership of our organization. I mentor lowerclassmen and provide a base in which my peers can build a strong nursing foundation. I strive to be an encouraging, approachable and reliable President.

To me, ISNA means taking on the responsibility this school deserves and being the liaison between the school, students and the nursing profession. ISNA is no longer a club for me but a way of life. So for this year we have instituted several community projects, which is our primary focus. I feel it is important to give back to the community. By giving back to the community, ISNA members are able to practice caring for vulnerable populations and practice rapport skills and different forms of aiding and being able to be active advocates in the community. Some community projects we have already accomplished so far this year is a valley-wide cell phone drive. We donated half to YWCA and half to Alternatives to Violence in the Palouse. By donating the cell phones these organizations are able to refurbish and disperse the phones for at risk-individuals and/or victims of domestic violence for emergency use. The cell phone components can also be recycled and sold. The money will be used to build homes for low-income families, cash to help with education materials, help fund mission trips, help the homeless with food and shelter, provide scholarships for American Children who have lost a parent from an act of terrorism, and host other projects. Our club has collected over 100 cell phones in all.

We also have accomplished raising awareness and money for breast cancer, which October is the assigned month. We were able to raise money for breast cancer and educate the public on breast health issues. Every Thursday in the month of October we had breast cancer booths on campus, where we provided brochures and taught how to perform self-breast exams and answer any questions regarding breast health. We also provided prosthetic breasts showing the difference in normal, fibrous and malignant breast tissue. Our organization combined with two other clubs on campus created, hosted

and organized a city-wide Breast Cancer Awareness walk October 25<sup>th</sup> on the Levee. KLEW news was there, local Radio Stations, and it was even advertised in the school newspaper and school website. As stated previously ISNA is not just a club to me but a way of life. Our Breast Cancer walk was incredibly successful, alone making \$1,000 for breast cancer research and to help aid victims and their families financially through a local organization called the "Gina Quesenberry Foundation". We donated 50% to the Quesenberry Foundation, 25% to Live Strong and 25% to the American Cancer Society.

As of now, we are currently brainstorming upcoming community projects such as volunteering at the local Hospital in Triage to answer health-related questions and possibly volunteering in the cancer awareness booth funded by American Cancer society at the local hospital as well. We've been brainstorming about hosting a family for Christmas, and volunteering at the local food bank, YWCA, and veteran's home. Our primary goal as a club is to educate the public and students on campus while becoming strong advocates in our community. ISNA is known on campus for being extremely active, and also known off campus as well.

Besides working on community service projects we are trying to raise money for our club to send ISNA members to Nashville, TN for the National Student Nurses Association Convention. We are currently selling Nursing T's and having a bake sale at the Health Care Career Fair that is on campus this month. We have 15 interested members who are eager to represent our nursing program at this convention.

Being President of this club has been such a privilege. Our organization carries itself very professionally. As a club, we understand we can make an impact off and on campus. I enjoy working with people with diverse backgrounds and ethnicities. I have compassion for all, and I'm all about making change for the better. I am a very driven individual and extremely positive. I try to delegate fairly amongst my peers, and I'm extremely receptive to new ideas and concerns. To be nominated for the Florence Whipple Award is an honor. I am honored to be recognized for my hard work by my professors. If I were the recipient of this award I would be very grateful and can ensure you that our organization will continue making an impact, one project at a time.

I have several goals that I would love to accomplish after I complete my BSN. I would like to join the military to help broaden my horizons and serve my country. I'm

interested in Life Flight nursing, traveling, and continuing my education either as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner or as an Internist.

I am also interested in critical care, trauma, and pediatrics. The great thing about nursing is that an individual can do and go anywhere!

My contribution to the school thus far is that I am a Resident Assistant here at the dorms for the last 3 years, I am an active member of Ambassadors Honor Society (which requires a high GPA), I sit in on the monthly BSN Sub-committees, and I am ISNA President. Again, I am so honored to be nominated for this award.

Sincerely,

Andrea Laursen (ISNA President)