

# CAREER LADDER CONVERSATIONS

February 2005

e-Newsletter from the University of Kansas School of Nursing  
<http://www2.kumc.edu/careerladder>

Welcome to our second Career Ladder Conversations, the e-newsletter from the University of Kansas School of Nursing Career Ladder Grant. We hope you find this information useful and will go to our website to sign up for additional offerings. Best wishes on your own Career Ladder!

## ATTENTION: Nurses with a BSN

### Have Your Heart set on Getting a Master in Nursing Degree?

Are there still jobs for clinical nurse specialists (CNS) in hospitals and other health care settings?

- ⊕ The answer is **YES!**
- ⊕ In the January 31, 2005 issue of *Kansas City Nursing News* the University of Kansas Hospital advertised for 3 job openings for Clinical Nurse Specialists positions (Master's of Nursing degree required).
- ⊕ In addition there were 3 other clinician job openings at this same hospital for which a Master's degree in nursing was preferred. A total of 6 job openings for a CNS in one hospital!!

#### PERSONAL PROFILE:

**Suzanne Shaffer, RN, MN**, a former CNS with hematology and oncology patients and now a nurse administrator at the University Hospital had this to say about clinical nurse specialists:

“I have always had a very special place in my heart for the CNS. To me, the CNS is the nurses' nurse. He/she is the clinical nursing expert, the person with the knowledge of evidence-based practice, the consultant for the tough clinical questions that do not revolve around the medical management of the patient but are the heart and soul of nursing.”

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## **PROGRAM INFORMATION:**

**With the new CNS/Clinical Educator Specialty within our Master of Science degree program at KU School of Nursing you can meet your heart's desire and earn your Master of Science in nursing degree.** Many required courses are web-based meaning you can do the work at home on your computer. Other classes are web-enhanced with reduction of in-class sessions by half.

Send your transcript from your BSN, diploma, or ADN program for a free analysis of how many college credits you have that would count toward your BSN to Master's or Master of Science in nursing degree. Send your transcript and/or request for further information to Debbie Stratton at her address below.

For guidance about continuing your education, contact the program director at your school or a mentor at the University of Kansas School of Nursing:

For questions about how master's preparation can advance your career contact:  
Anita Wingate, RN, PhD  
(913) 588-1634  
awingate@kumc.edu

For questions about admission to the KU Master of Science in Nursing program contact:  
Deborah (Debbie) Stratton, MS  
Graduate & RN Recruiter, Student Affairs  
(913) 588-1623  
dstratton@kumc.edu