



Colleen Jewel RN, WCC

Growing Wound Care Through Leadership, Mentorship, and Compassion

NAWCO is proud to recognize Colleen Jewel, RN, WCC, as this month's Outstanding Clinician. With more than 20 years of nursing experience, Colleen has built a career centered on compassionate care, lifelong learning, and developing others. A Wound Care Certified (WCC) clinician since 2021, she currently serves as a wound care nurse at North Valley Hospital in Tonasket, Washington, where her leadership has helped transform wound care services for her community.

Interestingly, Colleen didn't always envision a career in healthcare. She began her professional life in information technology, providing computer technical support. However, in her thirties, she felt called to pursue nursing—a decision that would ultimately change not only her own life, but the lives of countless patients.

As a new nurse, Colleen received advice pointing her in many different directions before accepting a position in a rehabilitation and long-term care facility. There, she eventually became the manager of a dementia unit, where she developed strong leadership skills while gaining valuable experience caring for patients with complex wounds.

Later, wanting to be closer to her family, Colleen relocated to Tonasket, Washington, and joined North Valley Hospital. Throughout her time there, she has served in a variety of roles, including Acute Care, Obstetrics, and Charge Nurse, while also expanding her expertise in nutrition, wound healing, and negative pressure wound therapy.

Today, Colleen is an integral member of the hospital's outpatient wound clinic, where she has helped grow the program from operating just two days each week to a full five-day schedule. She is part of a highly collaborative team that is committed to advancing wound care education throughout the organization. Together, they regularly welcome nursing students, medical providers, and clinicians from neighboring facilities to observe wound rounds and gain hands-on experience in evidence-based wound care.

Colleen's passion for education extends well beyond her patients. She has become a respected mentor within her department, serving as a preceptor for colleagues pursuing wound care certification. She helped guide one teammate through earning her WCC and later mentored Megan Vickers, who also achieved her WCC and now serves as a preceptor herself. Before mentoring others into certification, Colleen was the only Wound Care Certified clinician in her county for three years—a responsibility she embraced with dedication and humility.

Living and working in a small community has allowed Colleen to witness the lasting impact of her care. It's not uncommon for former patients to stop and thank her when they see her around town, expressing their appreciation for the compassion, encouragement, and expertise she provided during their healing journey. These moments remind Colleen that wound care is about much more than treating wounds—it's about building relationships and improving lives.

NAWCO is proud to recognize Colleen Jewel as this month's Outstanding WCC. Through her leadership, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to her patients and colleagues, she continues to strengthen wound care in her community and inspire the next generation of wound care clinicians.

Do you know a NAWCO credential holder making a difference like Colleen? We'd love to hear about it. Click the following link to share their story.

<https://www.nawccb.org/excellence-in-wound-care-nominees>