

## Professionalism

Travel nursing is being seen as a profession more and more, but we still have a way to go. Travel nursing started out as an answer for only seasonal shortages. Now, travelers are utilized as a percentage of the staff, at many facilities across the country, on an on going basis. In other words, while the traveler may be temporary, the traveling position may be more or less permanent.

Why do staff and management still resist travelers to a certain extent? Most of the answer is jealousy or resistance to change as I have spoken about in previous articles. Permanent staff may not want to give as much credibility to the traveler for fear of losing their own value to the hospital. You can't do much about that. However, some of it is due to our lack of professionalism. I am not talking about you personally, but I am talking about travelers in general.

One great way to maintain professionalism is to keep traveling politics at home. I don't know how many times I have seen travelers talking unfavorably about their company and their housing in front of the staff or about how they are going to get more money out of their company and really make money. The entire time they are talking, the staff is listening and forming opinions about travel nursing as a whole. The result is indirectly damaging to the entire profession.

You, being the traveler, can help by maintaining professionalism in the workplace. Naturally, travelers tend to be more relaxed because they are not directly involved with hospital politics. Furthermore, they don't have a boss looking directly over them per say. They are on contract at a facility that has a desperate need for them. This is a comfortable position.

I am writing this article as a friendly reminder that you are a representative of travel nursing as a profession. The hospital's impression of you often forms their impression of all travelers to follow (the entire travel nursing profession) which indirectly affects how often they will utilize travelers for staffing needs in the future and how much credibility they want to give you. The more professional you are at the workplace, the more facilities will feel better about using travelers. Then your experience at the hospital will be more positive and so will the next travelers experience. Meanwhile, you can take up your problems with the travel company on your own time. Many companies are willing to negotiate solutions.