



Clinical Informatics Council Flower: Climbing Rose

The climbing rose is a fitting floral representation for the newly-formed Informatics Council at KentuckyOne Health Louisville Area. Many of its characteristics bring to mind vital elements of the Council, its members, and its purpose.

There are several types of climbing roses, varying in color, flower type, size, and fragrance; these characteristics represent the diversity of the users of an Informatics network as well as the complexity of the information that is shared.

Climbing roses have a long bloom time and grow well in varied conditions, given sun and fertile soil, and are hardy and perennial; Informatics also allows for ongoing and dependable performance, given the attention of bright practitioners with fertile minds. The result is enhanced safety, availability, and uniformity of patient care.

The stems onto which the flowers are attached must bend in order for the rose to be able to climb and intertwine; in fact, most varieties of climbing roses are mutations of their bushy relatives. Informatics is an improved mutation of paper communication, and it allows intricate, legible communication among varied departments within the healthcare network, intertwining several users without disruption of information. Being flexible enough to embrace this change is a trait of nurses who are interested in Informatics, willing to see the beauty of this new and somewhat foreign component of nursing education.

Climbing roses need a reliable framework onto which they cling in order to thrive; the IT component of the Council is the essential support through which nursing and other essential information is transported to caregivers. The romantic notion of the rose fits here as well – the new closeness between nursing and IT and the ways in which each profession learns to understand one another's importance to the success of Informatics for improved patient care is a new marriage of sorts. Likewise, the thorns of the rose could be seen as some of the challenges that are fairly inevitable when professionals of such varying backgrounds become a team.

Lastly, the rose is a showy flower, and an organization's embracing of Informatics is an upfront, bold statement as well, showing a commitment to the future of safe and efficient patient care and a willingness to invest in it. The formation of the Informatics Council is a part of that statement and each member, like the rose itself, is a beautiful and individual climber growing towards high (but reachable) goals.