

# Healthcare Heroes 2013

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## Southern Nevada -Educator

**Rhigel Jay Alforque Tan, DNP, RN, APN**

**Assistant Professor, Nursing | [University of Nevada Las Vegas, School of Nursing](#)**

Dr. Rhigel Jay Alforque Tan's passion for educating future generations of nurses stems from primarily personal experiences. Having grown up on the Filipino island of Cebu, he realized his dream of attending medical school and overcame numerous obstacles, including his family's struggle against poverty. Currently an assistant professor of nursing and appointed board member on the Nevada State Board of Nursing by Governor Brian Sandoval, Dr. Tan advocates for nurses involvement in professional organizations. He also strives to ensure nurses are educated on regulations so they can provide quality and safe nursing care throughout Nevada.

Dr. Tan graduated cum laude from Cebu State college-Cebu City Medical Center College of Nursing and, with the help of family, was able to take the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Services (CGFNS) examination in order to work in the United States. Starting out in the field as a nursing assistant, he earned his RN license and an opportunity on the nursing administration team at El Jen. He was later invited to join the College of Southern Nevada as faculty. While he served as a committee member for CGFNS, Rhigel continued his education in the adult nurse practitioner, geriatric nurse practitioner, and psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner fields. He also received his doctor of nursing from the Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions.

Within the Las Vegas community, Dr. Tan is actively involved in the Asian community and was an active board member of the Philippine Nurses Association. He is also a volunteer in the Clark County Emergency Corps and the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nurses. Dr. Tan continues to contribute to education through his Yolanda Alforque-Tan Scholarship Foundation and Maria Libron Flores Nursing Scholarship Foundation.