

Chandler Hospital Awards Nurses

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LEXINGTON, Ky. (May 19, 2008) – University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital and Kentucky Children's Hospital celebrated National Nurses Week and presented top awards to several nurses during a reception held in their honor on National Nurses Day. This year's theme for the annual event was Nurses: Making a Difference Every Day. There are more than 900 nurses who work in both hospitals.

"It is always such a privilege to honor our wonderful Magnet Nurses during National Nurses Week," said Kathleen Kopsler, interim director of nursing for UK Chandler Hospital. "Each award recipient who was nominated and selected by peers is an outstanding example of the quality nurses at UK HealthCare. I am proud of each and every one of these award winners as well as all Chandler nurses who spend their days caring for and serving their patients.

Peggy Durbin, a nurse on the 7th floor, was the recipient of the M.J. Dickson Quality Nursing Care Award and was honored for meeting the following criteria: demonstrates excellence in nursing practice; significantly contributes to the improvement of quality nursing care; and exemplifies a commitment to the nursing profession.

The recipient of the Karen Stefaniak/UK **Appreciative Inquiry** Quilt of Teamwork Award for Nursing Support was Barbara Atkins, director of therapeutic services. She was honored for meeting the following criteria: collaboration and/or response to systems impacting nursing services; recognizing the role of nursing throughout the clinical enterprise; proving information or professional expertise to enhance nursing efficiency; and communication efforts exemplifying a positive portrayal of "Nursing Excellence...the UK Way."

Lola Thomason, a nurse with the Bone Marrow Transplant unit at Markey Cancer Center, was the recipient of the Nursing Professional Advancement Award. Thomason was recognized for meeting the following criteria: demonstrates excellence and involvement in nursing practice in the hospital, area of practice and community and/or national committee involvement; contributed to an article published in nursing magazines or demonstrated evidence-based practice based on health care research; contributed to clinical skills to the improvement of quality nursing care at the hospital as evidenced by patient care teaching; and demonstrated creativity in portfolio/practice.

Amy Carpenter, a 6th floor nurse, received the Nightingale Preceptor Lamp Award. Carpenter was recognized for meeting the following criteria: demonstrates an eager and enthusiastic commitment to the nursing profession, the preceptor program and nursing unit; demonstrates a positive attitude toward continued learning; utilizes learning resources to enhance teaching; role models excellent communication skills with preceptee, physicians, peers and patients; advocates for new preceptee; socializes the new preceptee to unit and hospital environment; demonstrates understanding of different learning styles and provides appropriate learning activities; and demonstrates ability to give verbal and written on-going and constructive feedback.

Clinical Excellence awards were also presented. They include: Linda Conyers, 6th floor; Sue McFarlan, pool; Gina Breunig, pool; Charla Morrow-Boggs, Kentucky Children's Hospital; Irma Perrin, Emergency Department; Kim Samuelson, Emergency Transport; Rechelle Rhodus, 6th floor South; Pat Stamper, 7th floor East; Yongseon Girdler, NICU; Faith Warren-Agee, 8th floor South; Denise Jagodzinski, 8th floor West; Christy Humes Bryant, Obstetrics; Marybeth Davin, Operating Room; Margie Peurach, PACU; Ada Wilson, CDU 4 North; Barb Newquist, Cath Lab; Sandy Hobbs, 5th floor; Michelle de Paor, Dialysis; Gail Starnes, 8th floor East; Leah Perkins, TICU; Jamie Dailey, Psychiatry; Janet Copher, Clinical Decision Unit; Samantha Eddington, 2nd floor, Markey Cancer Center; and Denise Holly, outpatient, Markey Cancer Center.

Nursing Care Tech Excellence Award Winners include: Rochelle Lowe, 2nd floor Markey Cancer Center; Virginia Gibson, 5th floor; Ada Logan, 7th floor; and Keri Elks, Operating Room.

National Nurses Day, also known as National RN Recognition Day, is always celebrated on May 6 and opens National Nurses Week. The week ends on May 12, the birth date of Florence Nightingale.

National Nurses Week is one of the nation's largest health care events, recognizing the contributions and commitments nurses make and educating the public about the significant work they perform. The American Nurses Association (ANA) supports and encourages National Nurses Week through state and district nurses associations, educational facilities, and independent health care companies and institutions. The week-long celebration is designed to accommodate the variety of schedules nurses are required to work.

The history of Nurses Day can be traced back to 1953 when Dorothy Sutherland of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare sent a proposal to President Eisenhower to proclaim a "Nurse Day" in October of the following year. The proclamation was never made, but the following year National Nurses Week was observed from Oct. 11-16, marking the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's mission to Crimea. In 1974, President Nixon proclaimed a National Nurse Week. In 1981, a resolution was initiated by nurses in New Mexico to have May 6 declared National Recognition Day for Nurses. This proposal was promoted by the ANA Board of

Directors and in 1982, with a joint resolution, the United States Congress designated May 6 to be National Recognition Day for Nurses. The proposal was signed by President Reagan, making May 6 the official National Recognition Day for Nurses. It was later expanded by the ANA Board of Directors in 1990 to a week-long celebration (May 6-12) known as National Nurses Week.