

The Excellence in **Nursing Research Award** Criteria requires that the nominee:

- ☞ Conducts distinguished research in nursing.
- ☞ Communicates nursing research findings.
- ☞ Writes scholarly works related to nursing theory and/or nursing research.
- ☞ Encourages research activities within Sigma Theta Tau, nursing, and/or the public.

This year's recipient for the Excellence in Nursing Research Award is **Dr. Anita Smith**.

Dr. Smith has worked in the Maternal Child Department for several years and was recently named as the new Chair of that department.

A colleague of Dr. Smith writes that, "Dr. Smith has conducted distinguished research on the development and psychometric testing of an instrument measuring the use of intuition by nursing students. Dr. Smith continues to develop her research expertise in intuition as well as serve as an excellent mentor for new faculty wanting to develop their research programs. Dr. Smith has presented her work at local, regional, national, and international forums, including the Sigma Theta Tau International Research Conference in Toronto, Canada. She has written grants through Tri-Service and the Department of Health and Human Services." Please help me in recognizing Dr. Anita Smith!!!

The Excellence in **Nursing Education Award** Criteria requires that the nominee:

- ☞ Demonstrates excellence in teaching.
- ☞ Advances the science of nursing through clarifying, refining, and/or expanding the knowledge base for nursing.
- ☞ Promotes a theory base for nursing curricular and nursing practice.
- ☞ Influences scholarly development in nursing education, practice, and/or research through teaching.
- ☞ Influences the professional practice of nursing and the public's image of nursing through excellence in teaching.

This year's Excellence in Nursing Education Award goes to **Ms. Noretta Walls**. One of Ms. Walls colleagues writes that she "exemplifies the best of both worlds in education and practice. She is dynamic, innovative, and caring."

A second colleague writes of students leaving her class "with knowledge they will use forever not only in their nursing education, but also in their daily lives. Her evaluations are always positive." This colleague goes on to write that Mrs. Walls "is a warm, compassionate, and caring faculty who engages students in the development of new knowledge using an evidence-based lecture approach coupled with vivid demonstrations" and that "there is never a dull moment." "Her students respond to her with enthusiasm as she skillfully engages them in the learning process."

Another colleague writes that "she is undoubtedly one of the most gifted educators I have ever had the pleasure to know or work with. She utilizes motivational learning techniques, humor, professional experience, and real life learning to convey her message and help students understand." Please help me to recognize Mrs. Noretta Walls!!!

The **Excellence in Nursing Leadership** Award Criteria requires that the nominee:

- ☞ Receives local, national, and/or international recognition as a nursing leader in education, practice, research, and/or administration.
- ☞ Influences leadership in nursing through visionary and innovative approaches to leadership.

- ☞ Creates an environment that enhances the image of nursing and nurses.
- ☞ Participates in the development of nursing leaders and leadership.

We have four recipients of the Excellence in Nursing Leadership Award this year. The first recipient is **Ms. Carol Krogsgard**, the Executive Director of Critical Care, Emergency Department, and Chest Pain Center at Providence Hospital. Ms. Krogsgard has been active in the American Organization for Nurse Executives and served on the Board as Treasurer.

One of Ms. Krogsgard's colleagues writes, Ms. Krogsgard enjoys the highest professional regard from a wide range of health care professionals. Her leadership has resulted in a long history of positive impacts on nursing, not just in the hospitals in which she has been employed, but also in the health care community at large."

Another colleague writes that Ms. Krogsgard has "worked hard to bring her nurse managers together and to raise the standard of care. As evidence of her diligence, one of the areas for which she has oversight has recently been recognized by the state for best practice. Please help me in recognizing Ms. Carol Krogsgard!!!

The second award recipient for Excellence in Nursing Leadership goes to **Ms. Beth Anderson**. Ms. Anderson has is the Hospital Administrator for the University of South Alabama Medical Center. She has also served in many leadership roles in the past and continues to serve on various community committees.

One nurse manager at the medical center writes of Ms. Anderson as one who seeks new opportunities for the hospital. One such opportunity mentioned was the Transforming Care at the Bedside (or TCAB) project. This nurse manager writes that, "The TCAB experience allowed me and my staff to examine new nursing practices to improve our patient care, improve our efficiency in delivery of care, and incorporate more evidence- based practice in our daily nursing practice."

Another such opportunity was the Clinical Nurse Leader role. This nurse manager writes that Ms. Anderson encouraged staff to explore the role, supported them through their efforts, and developed an educational partnership with the College of Nursing. She goes on to write that "Her work has opened numerous doors for us to participate in research, staff development, and professional growth."

A colleague writes of Ms. Anderson as being an excellent role model. "She is generous with her time, expertise, and talents. She is hardworking, dedicated, and committed to quality patient care. She is forward thinking and promotes others around her striving to be their best." Please help me to recognize Ms. Beth Anderson!!!

The third recipient of the Excellence in Nursing Leadership Award goes to **Ms. Pam Gilbert**. Ms. Gilbert is the Vice President of Nursing at Mobile Infirmiry Medical Center. She has been involved in the American Organization for Nurse Executives and has provided support for various leadership programs.

One colleague writes that, "Ms. Gilbert has demonstrated visionary leadership in the promotion of safe, quality care for patients while remaining acutely aware of the multiple demands placed on bedside care providers. Nurse managers working with Ms. Gilbert report that she has the skill and ability to provide individualized attention to a person, nursing unit, or department, while maintaining an awareness of the impact each decision has on the organization as a whole."

Another colleague writes that, "Ms. Gilbert encourages the development of staff to meet the needs of the workplace while also supporting individual career goals."

A third colleague writes that Ms. Gilbert “has the ability to encourage change without compromising basic nursing ethics, share her vision without overshadowing group creativity, and motivate others without force.” Please help me to recognize Ms. Pam Gilbert!!!

The fourth Excellence in Nursing Leadership Award goes to **Dr. Cathy Dearman**. Dr. Dearman has served as Chair of the Maternal Child Nursing Department at the College of Nursing since August of 2000, and she was recently appointed to Associate Dean. Dr. Dearman has served on a number of professional nursing and university-wide committees and has demonstrated expertise in grant writing with a number of grants being funded through the Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Dearman was a key individual in the success of the College of Nursing receiving the Alabama Commission of Higher Education’s approval for the new Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Dr. Dearman also played a major role in marketing the new Clinical Nurse Leader program on the local and national level.

“One colleague writes that, “Dr. Dearman influences leadership in nursing through her visionary and innovative approaches to education.” This colleague goes on to write that, “Through formal and informal means, she has cheered on faculty who are pursuing an advanced degree, those working on dissertations, those working on career development, and those learning to be excellent educators. Her presence, listening, and guidance make her an excellent nursing leader.”

Another colleague writes of Dr. Dearman as receiving local as well as national recognition as a nursing leader in education. “She reviews programs, presents papers, and serves as a consultant to many national programs.” This colleague also writes, “We are so much greater for having her as one of our essential leaders.” Please help me to recognize Dr. Cathy Dearman.

The Excellence in **Nursing Mentorship** Award Criteria requires that the nominee:

- ☞ Actively shapes and promotes the career of a nurse or the development of a chapter.
- ☞ Freely shares resources for the growth and development of the individual or the chapter.
- ☞ Maintains the mentoring relationship over time.

We have two recipients for this year’s Excellence in Nursing Mentorship Award. The first recipient is **Ms. Renee Rogers**. Ms. Rogers is the nurse manager for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at USA Children and Women’s Hospital. She serves on various committees in support of the neonates and their parents.

A colleague of Ms. Rogers writes, “Ms. Rogers has been instrumental in making undergraduate and graduate clinical experiences at Children and Women’s Hospital meaningful and professional.” “Ms. Rogers serves as a strong mentor in her role as nurse manager of NICU, providing 24 hour responsibility for the daily operations of 83 neonatal patients on average and scheduling for 186 employees.”

Another colleague writes that Ms Rogers “has been an example for many nurses and nurse leaders. She is someone I know I can always go to for sound advice and consultation. She has a positive ‘can do’ attitude” This colleague goes on to write that Ms. Rogers “supports the nurses in the NICU in the care that they give to the most vulnerable tiny patients.” Please help me to recognize Ms. Renee Rogers!!!

The second award recipient for the Excellence in Nursing Mentorship goes to **Dr. Julie Sanford**. Dr. Sanford is an Associate Professor in the Adult Health Department at the College of Nursing. One colleague writes, Dr. Sanford cheerfully guides and mentors new faculty in becoming acclimated to the world of academia and in research activities on an ongoing basis. In

addition to mentoring nurse educators, she also encourages and supports students who are pursuing their graduate and doctorate education in an effortless fashion.”

Another colleague writes that Dr. Sanford “promotes personal and professional growth, nurtures and orients faculty in the education process, and positively affects the nursing education environment.” In addition, Dr. Sanford has been “very instrumental in the development of the Zeta Gamma Chapter by serving in numerous leadership roles within the chapter.” Please help me to recognize Dr. Julie Sanford!!!

The **Outstanding Student Performance Award** Criteria is based on the following criteria:

- ☞ Receives local, national and/or international recognition as a student nurse leader in education, practice, administration, and or research.
- ☞ Influences leadership as a nursing student through visionary and innovative approaches to leadership.
- ☞ Creates an environment that enhances the image of nursing.
- ☞ Participates in the development of student nursing leadership.

This year’s recipient of the Outstanding Student Performance Award is **Ms. Jennifer White**.

One of Ms. White’s instructors writes that “Ms. White has achieved excellence in clinical and academic work. Ms. White took on an extensive project on a nursing unit at a Veterans Administration hospital in which she identified gaps in the work relationships of nursing staff. Based on her assessment, Ms. White planned strategies to improve communication and relationships. This instructor goes on to write that “Ms. White is self-directed and motivated. She has been a joy to teach and seeks opportunities to grow and develop in her professional role.” Ms. White will be the first Clinical Nurse Leader graduate from the accelerated Clinical Nurse Leader program.” Please help me in recognizing Ms. Jennifer White!!!

The last award to be presented today is the **Excellence in the Advancement of Nursing Education**. This award goes to an outstanding individual, **Dr. Patsy Capps Covey**. Dr. Covey is the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the university. Up until last year, the college of nursing was part of the division of academic affairs. This award is given in recognition of her extraordinary leadership skills and her numerous contributions to the College of Nursing during her tenure as our vice president. We would like to say first and foremost...thank you Dr. Covey for all your support and guidance. The college of nursing grew and prospered under your leadership. We were so fortunate to have a vice president like you who understood, valued, and supported our college of nursing. Dr. Covey, please accept this award as a small token of our appreciation.