AWARDS Program

Friday, October 10, 2014
Kellogg Conference Center
East Lansing, MI
Program

Welcome
JOHN ARMELAGOS, RN; PRESIDENT, MICHIGAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

Dinner
RECOGNITION OF SERVICE
JOHN ARMELAGOS, RN

Recognition of Michigan Nurses Foundation Scholarship Recipients
JESUSA VASQUEZ, RN, BSN, MPHA
PRESIDENT, MICHIGAN NURSES FOUNDATION

Induction of Florence Nightingale Society Members
JESUSA VASQUEZ, RN, BSN, MPHA

Recognition of Leipold Scholarship Recipient
DEBRA NAULT, MSN, RN, CNM
MNA ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Recognition of MNA Award Recipients
JOHN ARMELAGOS, RN

Excellence in Nursing Practice Award
Lynette Jacobson, RN, BSN

Political Nurse Activist Awards
Lori Batzloff, RN
Julia Morrissey, RN

Cheryl L. Johnson Nurse Labor Leader of the Year Award
Becky Baldwin, RN, CPAN

Labor Leader of the Year Award
Suzette Hantz, RN, BSN

Outstanding Contribution to MNA Award
Becky Baldwin, RN, CPAN

Nurse Hero Award
Gail Brandly, RN, BSN; Alycia Davidson, RN, BSN; Stacy Dubord, RN, BSN; Cherlynn Erickson, RN, BSN; Kim Grutt, RN, MSN; Leon Jarvis, LPN, Chaplain; Kary Jacobson, RN, BSN; Meagan Spalding, RN, BSN and the Registered Nurses of Duke LifePoint Marquette General Hospital
Michigan Nurses Foundation Scholarship Winners

Akisha Clark, ADN • HENRY FORD COLLEGE

As I spent weeks in ICU by my brother’s bedside after a car hit him, the group of nurses involved in his care blew me away. These nurses didn’t know my brother or my family before the accident, yet they were there with each question, each medication, saving his life. Many days I would see the tiredness in their eyes but they were a part of something so much bigger than themselves. It was during those days that I gained a new understanding of the nursing profession. My personal vision of nursing practice not only includes treating the patient, but treating the families and friends who come in contact with the health care system. My practice will reflect the genuineness of the craft with a level of unconditional love.

Akisha holds a BS in Health Administration from Eastern Michigan University and is the SWAP (Sisters Who Are Powerful) Women's Advisory Board President, a Bodyworks trainer, a Girl Scout leader and an ordained minister. She is employed as a unit secretary at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit.

Danielle Dinkins, RN • UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

My personal vision in regard to my future in nursing is exciting because I love to learn, I love to be a leader and most of all, I love being a nurse. After I finish my BSN, I want to become a Family Nurse Practitioner. Although all of my education is an important part of my nursing career and is the foundation as to where my career will lead me, it is my personal goal to reach out to future nurses, new nurses, and those who have been nurses for many years by being a leader in this profession and educating others about everything that nursing has to offer.

Danielle holds an ADN from Oakland Community College (OCC) where she served as Chair of the Community Outreach Committee for the OCC Nursing Student Association. She is also the Second Vice President for the Michigan Nursing Students Association, and is responsible for planning their annual state convention. Danielle is employed as a registered nurse for Beaumont Health System in Troy.

Katie Miller, RN, BSN • FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

One thing that is very important to me is to serve my community, and in particular to work with underserved populations. Too many people in our communities do not get the health care they need. I saw this first-hand while volunteering at Hope Medical Clinic in Ypsilanti. Big Rapids has a free clinic, and I intend to volunteer there once I am a nurse. Currently, I am in the process of becoming a local Hospice volunteer. Whatever field of nursing I end up in, my ultimate goal is to provide excellent care to patients: perhaps I will learn Spanish and work with migrant workers or serve as a school nurse in a rural area or become a nurse midwife serving women of low socioeconomic status. Any of these would be satisfying and challenging roles that would invigorate me! I look forward to what lies ahead.

Katie has been employed as a public school substitute teacher and was a full time volunteer with the U.S. Peace Corps in Kazakhstan. She is attending school full time in the accelerated Ferris State University BSN nursing program.
The Florence Nightingale Society

The Florence Nightingale Society honors individuals who have generously and consistently provided the means by which the Michigan Nurses Foundation may continue and expand its three-part mission:

- To provide scholarship assistance for aspiring nurses;
- To assist those nurses who are recovering from alcoholism and addiction; and
- To assist nursing researchers assess and improve nursing practice and outcomes.

Membership in the Florence Nightingale Society is given to financial supporters of MNF upon reaching the following thresholds for donations during their lifetimes:

**LEADER:** In recognition of at least $5,000 in cumulative donations.

**BENEFACTOR:** In recognition of at least $2,500 in cumulative donations.

**MEMBER:** In recognition of at least $1,000 in cumulative donations.

Members of the Florence Nightingale Society will be recognized by having their names displayed on a plaque located at the Michigan Nurses Association headquarters.

**LEIPOLD SCHOLARSHIP**

Established in 2012 by her daughters, the Margaret Louise Miller Leipold, RN scholarship honors their mother, a nurse who influenced and mentored young nurses. The scholarship is awarded to a second-year Michigan community college nursing student in need of financial assistance.

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**Lisa Burdt, ADN • HENRY FORD COLLEGE**

Nursing is a field that can take you for a ride, and it is up to the individual on how they embrace the journey. With my job experience as a nursing assistant I have gained a lot of passion and interest in the specialized field of wound care. I have gravitated toward that within the last couple of years and can see myself down the road after completing my BSN becoming a wound care nurse. Becoming a specialized nurse allows an individual to really perfect a specific skill set and strive at what you love. I have dreams of being on a wound care team and helping people learn how to prevent wounds from occurring altogether and when they do happen for whatever reason, I can show them how to properly care for them. My vision of nursing might not change the world but I can make a difference in the lives of so many people, no matter why they are seeking medical care.

*Lisa is employed as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. She volunteers at her daughter’s pre-school program and with Open Hand Food Pantry at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Royal Oak.*

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**Margaret Louise Miller Leipold, RN Scholarship**

Established in 2012 by her daughters, the Margaret Louise Miller Leipold, RN scholarship honors their mother, a nurse who influenced and mentored young nurses. The scholarship is awarded to a second-year Michigan community college nursing student in need of financial assistance.
Excellence in Nursing Practice Award

Lynette Jacobson, RN, BSN • PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE COUNCIL OF SPARROW HOSPITAL (PECSH)

Lynette has a long history of superior Inpatient Obstetrics care over her 25 years of nursing practice, both at Sparrow Hospital and at Duke LifePoint Marquette General Hospital. She has served as the Unit Base Council Chair for OB Services and has led many initiatives to secure safe staffing. When Sparrow transitioned from paper documentation to EMR, Lynette was a SuperUser, employing her problem-solving skills to ease the transition and fix problems. Through her leadership, improved nursing practice has taken place in areas such as breastfeeding initiatives and support, interdepartmental reporting, safe transfers, and the transformational model of nursing at Sparrow. She is also a strong patient advocate with legislators, explaining the need for nurse-to-patient ratios.

“Lynette’s commitment to excellence in nursing practice over her career has been shown through her leadership on the unit, within Sparrow, and in her political advocacy. Her growth from those first days as a novice nurse to a strong unit leader demonstrates her commitment to her personal professional growth as well as to our nursing profession.” – Diane Goddeeris, RN, BSN

Political Nurse Activist Awards

Lori Batzloff, RN • THREE RIVERS HOSPITAL RN STAFF COUNCIL

Linnie Crutcher, Lori’s mother, is a recently retired nurse from Borgess Medical Center. An avid supporter of the Borgess Staff Nurse Council, Linnie gave Lori an early overview of activism by indulging in her daughter’s wish to walk the picket line with her when the Borgess nurses were on strike in 1980. Before Lori became a nurse, she was already an outspoken union supporter and patient rights advocate as a patient care associate. Now a nurse on the Acute Care Unit at Three Rivers Health, Lori is a passionate advocate in Lansing and Washington, DC, speaking out for patients, nurses, and community rights. She has testified before a Senate committee for Medicaid expansion and most recently was featured in a commercial for MNA-endorsed gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer.

“Lori is very confident when she speaks and leaves every person she talks to with information for them to read to further educate them on nursing issues. I have seen a lot of growth in Lori’s confidence and her willingness to put herself out there to not only represent MNA, but also patients, nurses, and the communities in which we live and work.” – Becky Baldwin, RN, CPAN

Political Nurse Activist Awards continue on page 6.
Political Nurse Activist Awards, cont’d.

Julia Morrissey, RN • UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PROFESSIONAL NURSE COUNCIL (UMPNC)

Julia’s numerous forays into political advocacy for nurses and patients include: collecting signatures for ballot initiatives, speaking out before a crowd of thousands on December 11, 2012 about the right to collectively bargain, community activism to alert others to the need for Medicaid expansion, grass roots activities, participating in MNA lobby days and the Michigan Nurses MARCH, serving as a Legislative Liaison, writing a letter to the editor at the Detroit News regarding the need for safe patient staffing, and using her academic studies to advocate for the RN’s ability to speak up and act collectively to gain professional goals. She practices in the Hematology/Oncology Clinic at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center and is the Secretary for the University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council.

“While we all face competing challenges for our family, personal, and professional parts of our lives, Julia has successfully integrated all of those aspects of her life for the betterment of her profession, her family, and her community.” – John Armelagos, RN

Cheryl L. Johnson Nurse Labor Leader of the Year Award

Becky Baldwin, RN, CPAN • BORGESS STAFF NURSE COUNCIL

From her experience in leadership positions at MNA – delegate from the Borgess Staff Nurse Council, MNA Board Treasurer, Economic and General Welfare Cabinet member, MNA Board member – Becky knew Cheryl Johnson quite well. They both have the feisty spirit that Cheryl was known for: the ability to stand up for nurses, to speak out when problems arise, to find solutions. Like Cheryl, Becky is a mentor for new nurses and a diligent educator, consistently teaching how the union gives nurses a voice in their practice. Cheryl and Becky also shared the experience of being taken under the wing of former UMPNC President Margo Barron, who was an expert on seeing new leadership talent and mentoring it into exceptional leadership.

“Everyone at Borgess who has a union question knows they can contact Becky and she will either know the answer off the top of her head, or she will research it and get back to the person who asked the question. She has a wealth of knowledge that she is more than willing to share with fellow officers and nurses.” – Jamie Brown, RN
Labor Leader of the Year Award

Suzette Hantz, RN, BSN • DUKE LIFEPONT MARQUETTE GENERAL HOSPITAL STAFF NURSE COUNCIL

A member of the DLP MGH Staff Nurse Council since May 1987, Suzette has held the position of Secretary since 2006, served as a delegate to the Marquette Labor Council since 2006, is an MNA delegate, and a member of the MNA Congress on Nursing Practice. She is a consistent leader in encouraging nurses to speak up for their patients and teaching them how to use the Assignment Despite Objection form whenever there is an issue. Suzette is a mentor to the younger nurses and uses her professional knowledge and union protections to fight for safe patient care and safe staffing within the hospital. She also serves on the Partners in Change committee, which deals with contract issues, staffing and professional nurse issues, and determines action by consensus rather than taking a vote. Suzette has been active in state and national political events, lobbying for the Robin Hood Tax and for safe staffing.

“Suzette is an active participant in fighting for safe patient care and safe staffing within our hospital. She uses her professional knowledge to advocate for her patients and fellow nurses. As an active member of our bargaining unit since 1987, she is the ‘go to’ person when something is needed.” – Carolyn Hietamaki, RN

Outstanding Contribution to MNA Award

Becky Baldwin, RN, CPAN • BORGESS STAFF NURSE COUNCIL

In a loving way, Becky’s co-workers call her a “dinosaur” because of her years of experience and knowledge. She joined MNA in 1971 after graduating from Kellogg Community College and never looked back. Her leadership in MNA started in 1976 when she was elected Secretary of the Economic and General Welfare Cabinet and co-authored the original appeal procedure for the arbitration process with former UMPNC President Margo Barron. Since then, with a short time out to raise children and take care of elderly relatives, Becky has been in some form of leadership within both the Borgess RN Staff Council and MNA to this day. She is currently an MNA Board member, Secretary/Treasurer and negotiations team member of the Borgess Staff Nurse Council, and now holds a national position as a member of the NNU Practice Commission, representing MNA.

“At the negotiations table, management will ask Becky about the history of some of the items in the contract and why those items are there, and she’ll know the answer. She makes sure that new officers and nurses understand the purpose of the union, what rights we have, and how we got to where we are today.” – Jamie Brown, RN
Nurse Hero Award

Gail Brandly, RN, BSN; Alycia Davidson, RN, BSN; Stacy Dubord, RN, BSN; Cherlynn Erickson, RN, BSN; Kim Grutt, RN, MSN; Leon Jarvis, LPN, Chaplain; Kary Jacobson, RN, BSN; Meagan Spalding, RN, BSN and the Registered Nurses of Duke LifePoint Marquette General Hospital

The 2014 Nurse Hero Award is presented in recognition of the exceptional care and compassion extended to Sanaz Nezami and her family.

Sanaz Nezami, an Iranian native, came to Michigan Tech with her new husband to work on her doctorate in environmental engineering. She became a victim of domestic abuse and arrived at Duke LifePoint Marquette General Hospital on December 8, 2013 in a state of brain death. In a heartfelt display of professionalism, compassion and patient advocacy, the nurses found a way to contact Sanaz’s family in Iran, used a web camera to allow her family to say goodbye to her, and honored their wishes with a donation of eight healthy organs to seven recipients. They became her family’s hands and feet, smoothing Sanaz’s hair, kissing her on the forehead, and saying the prayer sent by her family as the organs were removed. Even now, they tend her grave in Marquette, leaving flowers and remembering the short time they knew her. The nurses and health care workers worked through language, cultural and time zone differences to honor Sanaz, her family, and her life. In recognition of their exemplary patient advocacy and in honor of Sanaz Nezami, the Nurse Hero Award is being presented to the primary caregivers and nurses at Duke LifePoint Marquette General Hospital.

“These nurses demonstrated the very essence of our profession by providing not only excellent nursing care but love and compassion that went way beyond the already complex management of a critically ill patient.” – Carolyn Hietamaki, RN

Nominate a deserving nurse in 2015!

Deadline - July 15, 2015
minurses.org/about/awards