



## **KershawHealth celebrates National Nurses Week**

Announces latest DAISY Award winner

May 18, 2015

KershawHealth kicked off National Nurses Week on May 6 with a reception and announcement of its latest DAISY Award winner. While many of the hospital's nursing staff attended the celebration, KershawHealth Chief Nursing Officer Stacy Collier noted some irony in the joy.

"We're having this reception to honor the wonderful nurses who work here, and many of them can't attend because they're out there doing exactly what they do best -- taking care of patients," Collier said.

Those recognizing the special care provided by nurses included members of KershawHealth's administrative team, Board of Trustees Chair Karen Eckford, Vice Chair Dr. Tallulah Holmstrom, Trustee Bobby T. Jones, Chief of Staff Dr. Paul Christenberry, and Hospitalist Dr. Tommy Norris.

As both Christenberry and Norris remarked, nurses have always provided the moment-by-moment, hands-on care patients cherish. Just as important, however, they are the eyes and ears physicians have come to trust, providing invaluable input and feedback to improve patient care.

Holmstrom acknowledged not only the training and skill of nurses, but the extraordinary compassion they show to patients and families every day. That compassion, she said, elevates nursing from an occupation to a true calling, and challenges those who choose it to constantly strive for excellence. She also pointed out the crucial role high-quality care increasingly plays KershawHealth's financial success.

The latest DAISY Award recipient is Lisa Creel, RN, of Women's Services. She was nominated by a patient, who noted her exceptional compassion and sympathy when it was discovered the woman's newborn son potentially had an abnormality that required immediate treatment and transfer to the

neonatal intensive care unit at Palmetto Health Richland. Frightened and helpless, the patient -- a nurse herself -- noted the way Lisa went out of her way to comfort her, support the family, and facilitate her discharge so that she could be with her son.



KershawHealth's other DAISY Award recipients to date are registered nurses Lorraine Jeffcoat of Hospice and Stephanie Raley of Nursing Supervision.

During the celebration, KershawHealth's nine Palmetto Gold Nurses were recognized. Each year, Palmetto Gold recognizes the top nurses across South Carolina. They are nominated and selected by their peers for their outstanding clinical skills, dedication to the nursing profession, and involvement in their community. KershawHealth's Palmetto Gold Nurses are: Gina Allen, Stacy Collier, April Wach, Jessica Geddings, Paula Guild, Gail Breon, Becky Yarborough, Mary Young and Lee Hunter.



*(Story provided by KershawHealth.)*

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