

Southwestern Colorado



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HEALTH NEWS
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SWCAHEC Announces a Call for Nightingale Luminary Award Nominations

DURANGO, CO – The Southwestern Colorado Area Health Education Center (SWCAHEC) is accepting nominations for the 7th annual Nightingale Luminary Awards. The award recognizes outstanding nurses in the four corners region, those who inspire compassionate care and whose hard work shines a light on our communities' health.

New this year! Nominations can be made for two registered nurses in two categories: clinical practice or non-traditional roles (administration, education, or research). In each category, nominees will be judged in the areas of: advocacy (advancing a cause or proposal); leadership (motivating others to work toward a common goal); or innovation (demonstrating creativity in the nursing field). Up to four regional "Nightingale Luminaries" will be recognized during a local awards ceremony to be held March 2, 2017 at the Strater Hotel in Durango with the possibility of advancement to a statewide award contest held in Denver on May 13, 2017. "The Nightingale Luminary Awards program is an excellent way to recognize our region's nurses who tirelessly give of themselves for the benefit of others," stated Kathleen McInnis, executive director at SWCAHEC. "As a Luminary recipient in 2012, I know first-hand how wonderful it is to be recognized by our peers!"

Last year over 75 people celebrated the 2016 Nightingale Luminary and STAR Nursing Awards at the Strater Hotel in Durango. Two local nurses from Mercy Regional Medical Center, **Katelyn Bach and Roxanne Hupp** received the "Nightingale Luminaries" distinction and **Jennifer Adams**, a second year nursing student at SW Colorado Community College, received the event's

proceeds, a \$1,000 nursing scholarship award. “I feel so grateful for the community support AHEC provides nursing students in this region as well as their support for improving rural health care,” said Adams. “To have been recognized by my fellow classmates in such a way was quite an honor.”

In the six years that SWCAHEC has been managing the event, over \$4,500 has been donated to the nursing scholarship program. To sponsor or get involved visit <http://swcahec.org/nightingale-awards>.

Details about the nomination process or to submit applications online for the Nightingale Luminary awards, visit www.swcahec.org, or contact the SWCAHEC office at 970-375-3250. **Nominations are open now thru December 10, 2016.**

About the Nightingale Event:

The Nightingale Awards event was founded in 1985 to honor nurses who best exemplify the philosophy and practice of Florence Nightingale, a 19th century nursing pioneer who epitomized the art of helping people toward their optimal health. Registered Nurses throughout the state are nominated by solicitation from the regional Area Health Education Centers system. Each region hosts a local event for nominees and finalists (Luminaries) are selected; the State Selection Committee then determines the recipients of the Nightingale Award.

About SW CO Area Health Education Center:

SWCAHEC is a regional non-profit organization in southwestern Colorado that broadly focuses on improving access to quality healthcare in eight counties; Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Montezuma, Ouray, San Juan and San Miguel. SWCAHEC provides support and coordinates programs for the community, health professionals and students interested in advancing health.

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