

Southwestern Colorado



AHEC

Area Health Education Center

pathways to health

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March 17, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nightingale Luminary and Star Award Winners Announced

Six Southwest Colorado Nurses Move on to Statewide Nightingale Event

More than 100 people gathered last night at the Henry Strater Theatre in Durango to celebrate the **2017 Nightingale Luminary and STAR Nursing Awards**. The Southwestern Colorado Area Health Education Center (SWCAHEC) annual awards and fundraising event shines a light on exceptional nurses from the region who inspire compassionate healthcare.

The fundraiser and silent auction raised more than \$1000 dollars for the Nightingale Community Nursing Scholarship fund topping last year's event proceeds. Two exceptional second year nursing students, **Roger Youngs** and **Tracey Beanland** from Southwest Colorado Community College, were awarded the nursing scholarships.

"Everyday nurses work tremendously hard — selflessly giving and helping others," said Executive Director, Kathleen McInnis. "This is a celebration to acknowledge all that they do and we hope that our fundraiser will encourage more young nursing professionals to strive for excellence in the healthcare profession."

Six Nightingale Luminary Nominees from Southwest Colorado were awarded the "Nightingale Luminaries" and will go on to attend the statewide Nightingale award ceremony held in Denver on Saturday, May 13.

Winners include:

Clinical Practice

Advocacy — Susan Caudle, Mercy Hospice

Jody Lamb, Southwest Health Systems

Leadership — Nikole Young

Administration, Education, Research or Non-traditional Practice

Advocacy— Sara Carver, Southern Rockies Addiction Treatment Services (SRATS)

Innovation — Amanda Harrison, Pediatric Partners of the Southwest

Leadership — Terri Schmitt, Vista Mesa Assisted Living

As part of regional effort to honor novice and experienced nurses from the eight county region who embody the essence of nursing, SWCAHEC founded the STAR awards in 2014. The **Shining STAR Award** honors a registered nurse who has worked or is currently working within the field of nursing; has more than 10 years of experience; has demonstrated leadership skills; and has made an impact on the profession and/or on patients. **The Rising Star** recognizes a nurse who is currently working in SW Colorado; has ten years or less experience; and shows leadership and growth potential.

Shining STAR Nursing Awards—

Registered nurse **Bobbi Lock of Montezuma County Public Health**, a seasoned nurse with more than 10 years of experience received the Shining STAR Nursing award. Other nominees honored include: Kim Ackles, Jennifer Beckermeyer, Laura Schiavone, Talonda Sprague, Keith Swindell, Susan Tipton, and Kelley Unrein.

Rising Star Nursing Awards—

Martha Anchando of Hospice of Montezuma was awarded the Rising STAR Award. Other four corners nurses nominated include: Francesca Ferlita, Amy Galyon, Heidi Larrick, and Rebecca Wells.

About the Nightingale Awards

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. In May, The Colorado Nursing foundation will honor up to 60 Nightingale Luminaries statewide. Area Health Education Centers and private Nightingale committees in 10 regions will select the Luminaries from among hundreds of applicants.

About SWCAHEC

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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