

Reflecting on the Past

2011 NAHUC Annual Award Winners

Submitted by Nadine Stratford, CHUC, Washington, UT

Awards Committee Members:

Eileen Wolke, CHUC (KS)

Linda Roll, CHUC (UT)

Sherry Franklin, CHUC (AL)

Certified Health Unit Coordinator of the Year

Lyndee Leavitt, CHUC

Washington, UT

Lyndee began her career as a prn health unit coordinator working the unpopular Friday night shift at Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City in 2000. She soon began working more shifts and eventually became an H.U.C. supervisor. In 2004, she transferred to Dixie Regional Medical Center in St. George, Utah, where she is recognized as a go-to person for her department and for H.U.C.'s housewide. She assists in teaching H.U.C. orientation and has presented H.U.C. related topics at several hospital and regional inservices and workshops. Lyndee has also assisted in editing chapters for health unit coordinator textbooks.

Lyndee has been a member of NAHUC since 2003 and certified since 2005. As a young child, she grew up seeing people close to her being involved in NAHUC and when she began working as a health unit



**Lyndee Leavitt,
C.H.U.C of the Year**

coordinator she already knew that membership and certification would add value to her career. Lyndee has been a member of the NAHUC Awards Committee and currently serves on the Publication Committee. She has written articles for *the Coordinator* and assisted in creating several continuing education quizzes. Lyndee will be graduating as a registered nurse in May and acknowledges that being a health unit coordinator has provided the perfect foundation for her career in nursing.

Outstanding Individual of the Year

Girlie Stanley, CHUC

Dallas, Texas

For the past five years, Girlie has been recognized as the contact for all things NAHUC at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. She is proactive in making sure that information on membership and certification are presented at monthly H.U.C. meetings. Girlie recruited and motivated three other unit coordinators to join her in taking the certification exam. She has gone above and beyond in encouraging others to become certified, explaining the benefits and satisfaction that comes from being a certified health unit coordinator. Girlie gives freely of her time to hold review sessions and help individuals in studying for the exam. When one health unit coordinator struggled passing the exam for the first time, Girlie took it upon herself to explore optional study methods to ensure a successful second testing for this person. She is an example for all to follow on their journey to becoming certified. Girlie Stanley had these encouraging words to say, "Be dedicated. Know your team members and support them to make sure they have everything they need to do their work".

Institutional Provider of the Year

Humility of Mary Health Partners

Youngstown, Ohio

Demonstration of support for health unit coordinators and NAHUC is very evident at Humility of Mary Health Partners (HMHP). The facility was the first one in Ohio to offer an internal H.U.C. course that includes anatomy and medical terminology, health unit coordinator and leadership skill along with an apprenticeship. Current health unit coordinator staff may also take this course to expand their knowledge. Passing the NAHUC Certification Exam is a key part to successful completion of the program. In November of 2010, certification was offered to all facility H.U.C.'s and reimbursement of the

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exam fee was given. Certification prep classes were offered at all three facilities that comprise Humility of Mary Health Partners: St. Joseph's, St. Elizabeth Boardman Health Center and St. Elizabeth Hospital Health Center. The classes included study tips, stress reduction and timed practice exams.

The facility began transitioning to the electronic health record in August of 2011 and has updated the health unit coordinator job description and has offered additional training. As a NAHUC institutional provider, they have also presented contact hour opportunities. The role of the health unit coordinator is respected and Humility of Mary Health Partners does its best to help them develop their full potential. Because of efforts to promote education and certification, the number of certified health unit coordinators jumped from 2 to 24 in 2010.

Georgette Peters, who nominated HMHP for Institutional Provider of the Year, said, "It is with great pride and honor that HMHP accepts the Institutional Provider of the Year award. We strive to provide many opportunities for professional and personal growth to our health unit coordinators and other employees throughout the year. We all truly appreciate this great honor".

Award Nominations

If you know of an individual or an institution that you feel deserves recognition for what they have done for the profession, please complete an award nomination form. The form is on page 16 of this issue and on the Web site, www.nahuc.org.

Nomination forms for the 2012 awards must be received by the NAHUC office no later than April 1, 2012.

Awards will be issued at the 2012 NAHUC Education Conference in Cleveland, Ohio.



Humility of Mary Health Partners IP of Year

(l-r) Porfirio Esparra, Sr. Director, Human Resources,
Georgette Peters, HUC Educator, & Molly Seals, Sr.
V.P. of Human Resources & Learning