3rd Annual Excellence in Preceptorship Award

The third annual Excellence in Preceptor Recognition and Appreciation luncheon was held on May 10, 2012 at the Holiday Inn, Dartmouth. This event sponsored by the Registered Nurses Professional Development Centre honored the outstanding contributions that Preceptors provide to our health care. The award recognizes outstanding staff nurses who exhibit exceptional abilities as a preceptor to new nurses and who create a positive, encouraging and respectful learning environment. A successful recipient is a role model who creates planned and purposeful learning experiences, provides feedback for ongoing evaluation, supports socialization of the preceptee into the new role and environment, and fosters ongoing professional development of all staff.

To be a preceptor is to be a leader. In their leadership role, preceptors support and help learners grow and thrive by:

- Building bridges for new graduates as they support their transition into the practice setting
- Developing clinical competence and confidence
- Assisting new graduates integrate into their professional role
- Providing a safety net for learners experiencing work life realities
- Increasing new graduate satisfaction and staff retention
- Playing an integral role in the orientation and evaluation of new staff members

Dillon, Barga, & Janiszewski Goodin, 2012

Once again the submissions for this year’s awards have been inspirational. The following are some excerpts from the nomination letters:

- She has captured the art of demonstrating skillful interactions with patients.
- Creates an encouraging work environment for learning.
- Her warmth and compassion are shining beacons for new practitioners.
- Her positive attitude trickles down to staff that works with her.
- Ensures that the new graduate is not placed in a situation that is not appropriate or not ready to handle.
- Provides an inclusive learning environment for her learners.
- Her gentle but direct words of encouragement help ease tense situations.
Our 2012 Award Recipients:

**Marie Griffin**
Registered Nurse
Medical Unit, Valley Regional Hospital
Annapolis Valley District Health Authority

**Heather Fleury**
Registered Nurse
Perioperative Unit, Valley Regional Hospital
Annapolis Valley District Health Authority

**Marlene Duperre**
Registered Nurse
Family Newborn and Adult Surgery
IWK Health Centre

**Cathy Berkvens**
Registered Nurse, Education and Support Nurse
Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority

**Heather Campbell**
Registered Nurse, Ambulatory Oncology
Yarmouth Regional Hospital
South West Nova District Health Authority

**Mary Gay**
Registered Nurse, Operating Room/Perioperative Unit
Colchester Regional Hospital
Colchester East Hants Health Authority

**Shirley Caldwell**
Registered Nurse
Pictou County Health Authority

**Shelley Stright**
Registered Nurse
Intensive Care Unit
Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre
Cumberland Health Authority
Tracey Colbourne  
Registered Nurse, Perioperative Unit  
Dartmouth General Hospital Site  
Capital District Health Authority

Beth Payne  
Registered Nurse, Intensive Care Unit  
Dartmouth General Hospital Site  
Capital District Health Authority

Joan Pacione  
Registered Nurse, Medical Surgical Intensive Care Unit  
Halifax Infirmary Hospital Site  
Capital District Health Authority

Lesley Bishop  
Registered Nurse, Medical Surgical Intensive Care Unit  
Victoria General Hospital Site  
Capital District Health Authority

We would like to express our appreciation and congratulations to all of the nominees. Thank you for all your hard work, dedication and most importantly - your continued leadership.

Reference


*Journal for Nurses in Staff Development*, 28 (1), 36-40.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Bellefontaine