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Media Release

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For Immediate Release

Nurses Honoured With Recognition for Excellence, Education Funding

WINDSOR - Nurses at Windsor Regional were honoured this week to recognize nursing excellence and continuing education efforts.

Winners of the Jeanne Mance Extraordinary Nursing Care Awards, which go to a nurse who continually goes above and beyond to provide compassionate and professional care to patients and exemplifies teamwork, compassion, stewardship and respect:

- **Amy Kubinec, RN**

Amy works on 4 Medical at Ouellette Campus. She is described in her nomination as “intelligent, humble and very skilled as a nurse ... endlessly empathetic. She always keeps her patient’s health and safety at the forefront of what she does. She advocates for her patients and thinks of every detail. No request from a patient is too small for this nurse to attend to it with the utmost respect and care.”

- **Emma King, RPN**

Emma works on the Mental Health unit at Ouellette Campus. She is described as “always dependable, efficient and caring in everything she does. This nurse takes the time to really know her patients and provide the best care possible. She is always helping other nurses, regardless of the task. Her compassion, drive and attitude does not stop with work. She is often found to be assisting with handling difficult situations while keeping the patients best interest in mind. She is always lifting the spirits of those around her.”

- **Karen MacKinnon, RN**

Karen works in the Cardiac Catheterization Lab at Ouellette Campus. She is cited for providing excellent patient care and a great team player who works to improve processes and communication amongst the team. “All together she is a fantastic person and nurse, WRH is blessed to have her!”

- **Julie Larouche, RPN**

Julie works on 6 North at Met Campus. She is described by colleagues as being especially sensitive to the needs of palliative patients and “an inspiration to nurses old and new ... She is a true asset to the healthcare team ... Compassion truly is her passion.”

- **Lynn Peelar, RN**

Lynn received her award from colleagues on May 6th, 2022 – her last day after more than 34 years as a nurse! “She puts our patients and caregivers at the centre of care each and every day and has so for her entire career,” says a colleague. “She is knowledgeable, warm, caring, empathic and is interested in what others’ perspectives are. If I needed an advocate, I would definitely want her in my corner.”

- **Patti Shepley, RN**

Patti is a veteran nurse who works on the surgery floor at Met Campus. She has been a role model for years for her co-workers, new staff and students just entering the profession. “Her caring spirit shines throughout each shift, no matter what may be happening. There has never been a time that I have not seen her demonstrate patience, understanding, caring and compassion to all who cross her path. She has always put her patients first. If someone asked me whose practice I would hope a new nurse would emulate, it would be her.”

- **Stacey Sorrentino, RN**

Stacey works in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Met Campus. Stacey “provides utmost emotional support and direction for our families of patients, and supports her fellow colleagues through some of the most challenging situations ... She is a genuine kind spirited, funny and so dedicated to her work.”

Nurses were nominated by colleagues. Dozens of nominations were received, highlighting the incredible amount of nursing talent throughout our organizations.

Four WRH nurses were also named as recipients of the annual Lori Dupont Bursary, which assists staff with continuing education costs. Each successful candidate is awarded up to \$1,000. The Bursary recipients were:

- **Nicole Preston, RN, NICU, Met Campus**
- **Victoria Preston, RN, OB, Met Campus**
- **Emily Bohdal, RN, ICU, Ouellette Campus**
- **Felicia Varacalli, RN, ICU, Ouellette Campus**

Nicole and Victoria – identical twin sisters – are pursuing their Masters of Nursing degrees. Felicia is studying for a Master of Science in Nursing Degree (MScN) while Emily is working towards becoming a Nurse Practitioner.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 protocols regarding group gatherings, this year's awards were delivered personally to each individual recipient.

“Nursing Week is a tremendous opportunity to reflect on our exceptional nurses who alongside their incredible colleagues from every corner of our campus have continued to go above and beyond throughout another challenging year,” said Karen Riddell, Chief Nursing Executive and Chief Operating Officer, Windsor Regional Hospital. “We want to thank and celebrate the dedication and efforts of not only these award recipients selected by their peers, but to all nurses across our hospital and indeed throughout our community.”

Congratulations to all of our nurses from WRH!

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