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MMC Employees Receive Statewide Honors

There is not a college, nor professor, nor doctor, nor even a fellow nurse that could have prepared me for what I would experience as I ventured into my career in nursing," said Sheila Slenczka, Infection Control and Employee Health Nurse at Memorial Medical Center in Neillsville. "They also would not have been able to express how inspired, touched, fulfilled and honored it would make me feel to be a nurse."



Slenczka is one of 54 health care employees that were recently honored by the Wisconsin Hospital Association's annual Employee Pride Recognition Program. The program is designed to celebrate the health care workforce and recognize their contributions to the health of their communities.

Slenczka attributes her decision to go into nursing to a job she had when she was a teenager working at a nursing home in Neillsville. As she wrote in her essay, "I was able to bring the residents happiness from doing small things for them. I found this very rewarding."

Now Slenczka can't get enough of the health care field. Not only is she a nurse at Memorial Medical Center, but she also serves as the Public School Student Health Nurse for the Neillsville School District.



Earlier this month, another MMC employee also received recognition for going above and beyond in the health care field. The Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (RWHC) recently presented Karen King, Operating Room Supervisor at MMC, with the 2010 Rural Health Ambassador Award. (King shown at center of photo, at left.)

This award recognizes health care employees at RWHC hospitals who have gone above the call of duty in promoting their organization, while making significant contributions to rural health. Eleven individuals from across the state received awards this year.

"I was just doing my job; I never expected to be rewarded for it," said King.

Memorial Medical Center nominated King for the award because of role in helping the hospital better serve the growing Amish and Mennonite communities, her eagerness to coordinate and participate in "surgery showcases" to explain MMC's surgical

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procedures, and the project she undertook with local law enforcement to inform the community about the rise in methamphetamine use in Clark County.

“The Methamphetamine awareness program was a great experience for me not only in educating myself, but our communities as well, to make them a safe place to live and raise our families,” King said. Her efforts helped to educate over 1,200 people in four counties in Wisconsin.

“Karen’s motivation and dedication in the Meth presentations was truly amazing. The message was heard by so many and had such an effective impact in our community,” said Jim Backus, Chief Deputy for the Clark County Sheriff’s Department. “This was an excellent partnership between Memorial Medical Center and the Sheriff’s Department.”

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