



# Articles & Features

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## MVAMC Nurses Recognized for Professional Excellence

By Kevin L. McIver — Public Affairs Officer



Associate Medical Center Director for Nursing Programs and Education Susan George, right, with the 2010 Martinsburg VAMC Excellence in Nursing award winners. From left to right: Debbie Jolliff, Pam Conners, Judy Siddle, and Terri Flowers. *Photo: VA / Jim Robertson.*

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. — The Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center recognized its top nurses for their superior contributions to patient-centered care here during today's annual Nursing Excellence Recognition Ceremony.

"It was an exciting event for our nurses, who make up a large percentage of the overall medical center workforce, because they are nominated by their peers as being among our best health care professionals," said Susan George, the associate medical center director for nursing programs and education.

The "Excellence in Nursing Award"

program was established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the 1984, and each year candidates are selected for their contributions to patient-centered care at the medical center. This year the following nurses earned the prestigious council awards:

- Becky Franklin, Education Council;
- Mary Campbell, Leadership Council;
- Amie Speer, Practice Council;
- Jan Lorber, Recruitment and Recognition Council; and
- Joann Ashworth, Research Council.

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Health Care Technician Terri Flowers received the Nursing Assistant Health Care Technician award.

A member of the Podiatry Team, Flowers was recognized by a physician as providing “stellar care and is proactive in recognizing opportunities to serve our veterans.” In addition to her clinic work and “can-do” attitude, her outstanding presentation and poster exhibit at the Diabetes Health Fair was cited for its excellence.

Pam Connors was recognized during the ceremony in the Licensed Practical Nurse category after a physician in the outpatient clinic highlighted her dedication in promoting “healthier life styles” for patients. “She takes her role within the nursing profession seriously and is dedicated to provide the best care possible to the patient population she serves.”

Earning the coveted Excellence in Nursing Award for a Registered Nurse in an expanded role was Judy Siddle. As the director for the Care Coordination Home Telehealth program, Siddle was recognized for her dedicated excellence in nursing practice, theory, research, and community outreach.

According to George, “Judy Siddle provides a supportive care coordination environment that is conducive to learning with an emphasis on disease management for the Veteran and their families.”

Debbie Jolliff earned the Excellence in Nursing award in the staff nurse category. Jolliff is a nurse in the Care Coordination Home Telehealth program.

“Her outstanding contributions to best practices in home telehealth have enhanced our ability to meet regional and national goals,” said George, who noted Jolliff has been recognized regionally for her presentation on Enhancing Care Coordination: Integrating Case



**From the left, Medical Center Director Ann R. Brown, Debbie Jolliff, VISN 5 Network Director Sanford Garfunkel, and Susan George. Jolliff earned this year’s coveted VISN 5 Excellence in Nursing Award. Photo: VA / Jim Robertson**

Management and Organizational Strategies into a Care Coordination Role.

Jolliff also earned the prestigious Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN) 5 Excellence in Nursing Award presented by Director Sanford Garfunkel. As the VISN 5 award winner, Jolliff will compete for the National Veteran Administration Excellence in Nursing Award.

Refreshments for the event were courtesy AMVETS Post 10, from Hagerstown, Md.

Other events during Nurses Week included a retired VA Nurses Tea hosted by the Recruitment and Recognition Council, and Nursing Grand Rounds hosted by the Nursing Research Council.

#### **VA Nursing – A Profession and a Passion**

Since its establishment in 1930, VA has been the largest employer of nurses in the country.

In 2010, more than 77,000 nursing personnel—including registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, health technicians and nursing assistants—work in VA’s national medical system. This includes some 337 MVAMC nurses.

VA nursing service reflects all levels of academic preparation, from two-year associate through doctorate degrees.

Congratulations to this year’s nominees and winners!