

The Exceptional Nurse Newsletter

July, 2007

www.ExceptionalNurse.com

Hello to all Exceptional Nurses and supporters,

As a window closed in the life of one retired nurse midwife, a door opened. Catherine C. Roberts, MSN, CNM, founder of, Quilts of Valor Foundation has a new focus in her life — to cover combat wounded and injured service members with quilts; “Quilts of Valor,” to be specific. The quilts provide comfort for servicemen and women facing physical and emotional damage from war. Everyone can help out at <http://www.qovf.org/>

Employment Opportunities

St. Louis, MO: Position: 005870 – Occupational Health Nurse

The Occupational Health Nurse administers and coordinates OSHA required Medical Surveillance Health programs.

- Interface with medical surveillance providers and physicians.
- Manage OSHA medical records and X-rays for the corporation.
- Review audiometric testing and pulmonary function results.
- Provide Health Consultation to employees.
- Determine minimum medical surveillance protocols for OSHA compliance.
- Coordinate follow-up medical examinations and minimum exam protocols.
- Prepare Health Hazard Guidelines and Health Information Sheets.
- Participate in ergonomic evaluations.
- Monitor, review and interpret regulatory health testing requirements.
- Provide compliance guidance to management and training to company personnel.
- Develop comments on proposed safety & health regulations and participate in regulatory proceedings as required.
- Administer corporate compliance programs as assigned.
- Assist in development and review of operating groups' health compliance programs.

BSN required. MS/ Public Health preferred. RN license required. Certification as Occupational Health Nurse Specialist or qualified to sit for exam. Five years of Occupational Health nursing. Two years acute care experience. Working knowledge of OSHA surveillance. Analytical, communication and human relations skills. Ability to design and administer health compliance programs. Apply at www.ameren.com.

Adjunct Faculty Positions Online

The ADN program at Rio Salado is online and they offer adjunct faculty (in/out of state) positions. Fill out the on-line application at www.riosalado.edu. At the bottom of the page click on “teach for Rio” then click on “Adjunct Faculty application”.

Imagine the possibilities if...

“Leave No Nurse Behind: Nurses working with disabilities” became a best seller!!

Potential nursing students, current nursing students and practicing nurses with disabilities need to know that a career in nursing is possible. Can you help out by calling your local public, hospital or university library and making a suggestion for purchase of this book?

“Leave No Nurse Behind: Nurses Working with disabilities” by Donna Maheady. Eleven nurses who defied disability tell their personal stories of courage and determination to continue to practice. The nurses have a wide range of disabilities including MS, arthritis, HIV, spina bifida, mental illness, vision loss, d/Deaf, back injuries, tremors, dystonia, an limb loss. The book is available at www.iUniverse.com and at other online booksellers for 14.95. ISBN is 0-595-39649-6.

Order a personalized, autographed copy of *Leave No Nurse Behind: Nurses working with disAbilities* directly from ExceptionalNurse.com. It makes a great personal or professional gift. Email: ExceptionalNurse@aol.com.

"Talent for a Winning Team" Poster Available to the Public

The 2007 National Disability Employment Awareness Month poster, “Workers with Disabilities: Talent for a Winning Team”, is now available. Public Law 176 established October as the official month to recognize the contributions that individuals with disabilities have made to the workforce. <http://www.dol.gov/odep/index.htm>

Article of Note

Nurses with Disabilities Compensate — and Contribute

Ready and Able

by Wendy Bonifazi, RN, APR, CLS

“Far from burdening the healthcare system, nurses with disabilities can be a profoundly valuable healthcare asset”. Read the stories of three nurses with disabilities. Rebecca Koszalinski, RN, MSN is featured. She is a board member of ExceptionalNurse.com.

Nursing Spectrum, Monday July 16, 2007 <http://tinyurl.com/3ar9x9>

RNs in Wheelchairs Face Challenges During and After Nursing School

By Heather World

“In 1978, Sonya Perduta was turned away from nursing school because she might have problems changing a bedpan. Decades later, in 2000, Marianne Haugh was congratulated for excellent grades and test scores, then counseled to seek a major other than nursing.”

Nursing Spectrum Monday July 30, 2007, <http://tinyurl.com/2v763l>

ExceptionalNurse.com awarded six scholarships this year.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of the recipients!!

Euniece Robinson, LPN, ADN student at Cincinnati State Technical & Community College, Ohio (\$750.00)

Kristina Zahniser, BSN student at Lower Columbia College, Longview, Washington (\$750.00)

Erica Bartley, BSN student Lander University, Greenwood, South Carolina (\$750.00)

Deborah Garrison, RN, MS student, Walden University (\$750.00)

Margaret Saliba, Accelerated BSN student at Curry College, Milton, MA, (\$750.00)

Rebecca Koszalinski, RN, MSN, Ph.D. student at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida (\$500.00)

Technology of Note

Explore language in the Visual Thesaurus. An interactive interface lets you have a conversation with information, in this case words and meanings. If you have a meaning in mind, say, "happy," the VT helps you find related words from "blissful" to "bright." Word maps blossom with meanings and branch to related words. You'll find the right word, write more descriptively, free associate -- and gain a more precise understanding of the English language. <http://www.visualthesaurus.com/howitworks/>

Moving Beyond Hospital Walls

“Have you ever wondered how far you could move from the bedside in your career pursuits and still call yourself a nurse? Have you ever questioned whether your colleagues who work in nontraditional areas, such as quality assurance, are still working as nurses? Is your identity as a nurse tied up in the traditional realm of hospitals and direct patient care?” <http://www.dcardillo.com/articles/movingbeyond.html>

Call for articles

If you are a student with a disability in the university, college, or a technical school, The HEATH Resource Center encourages you to submit an original article for publication in their new "Student Voices".

HEATH is currently soliciting papers from students who will share their experiences, lessons learned, and can "mentor" through their writing fellow students in secondary special education or postsecondary education and career development. They are looking for papers that provide families and professionals an opportunity to "walk in your shoes" to gain insight in your experiences as individuals with disabilities as you continue your post high school education and career development. They are especially interested in articles that describe how you overcame the barriers to successful completion of your higher education. "Student Voices" articles will utilize good journalistic style and be well written reflections of your personal experiences.

For questions regarding the submission and review status, contact Donna Martinez, Director of The HEATH Resource Center at: email: dmartine@gwu.edu; or postal mail at: The GW HEATH Resource Center, 2134 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20052.

[The Nightingale Declaration Campaign](#)

Add your signature to the Nightingale Declaration, in which nurses promise to "dedicate ourselves to the accomplishment of a healthy world by the year 2020. We declare our willingness to unite in a program of action, sharing information and solutions to resolve problems and improve conditions - locally, nationally and globally - in order to achieve health for all humanity." More than 10,000 people have already signed the declaration. <http://www.nightingaledeclaration.net/>

Mentors

Exceptional Nurse is always looking for mentors. If you are interested in helping others, please email ExceptionalNurse@aol.com. Only email addresses are listed on the web site. In addition, a reminder to our current mentors, if you change email addresses, please remember to let us know.

Continuing Education

“Teaching Nursing Students with Disabilities” by Donna Maheady, ARNP, Ed.D.
“Writing Your Way to Health and Healing: An interactive workshop for nurses with disabilities” by Connie Adleman, RN
“When your student is Deaf” by Martha McElyea, MSN, Rockhurst/Research College of Nursing
Visit the Continuing Education page of ExceptionalNurse.com for details.

Volunteer opportunities

<http://www.redcross.org>, <http://www.missingkids.com>, <http://www.nod.org> ,
<http://www.mobilityproject.org/>, http://www.uniteforsight.org/intl_volunteer,
www.invisiblechildren.com, www.savedarfur.org

Keep the faith and get involved in our advocacy efforts. Please forward this newsletter to colleagues. Subscribe/ unsubscribe to this newsletter at www.exceptionalnurse.com/maillist.htm

Live generously,

If Bell hadn't been creating a reasonable accommodation for his mother who had difficulty hearing we might not have moved the phone forward so quickly and no phone--no web--no e-mail... Gee I wonder if that accommodation for one particular individual paid off in the long run?

Donna

Donna Maheady, Ed.D., ARNP
Founder and President
Contact me with news, ideas or suggestions for future newsletters.
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