

Nursing update



High praise from a nursing colleague

While nobody wants to be in the hospital, the intense pain stemming from a bulging disc in John Fritts' back made it necessary. However, the prospect of being admitted to Via Christi Hospital St. Teresa and having Dr. Andrew Fields as his hospitalist was "immediately calming," says John, an RN and long-time member of Via Christi's vascular access team.

"The experience was made so much better," he says in a note sent to Brenda Larson, St. Teresa's chief nursing officer, "by the fact that your staff and the workflow are so much better than even my last time."

John listed a dozen team members, including nurses, techs and associates in Respiratory Therapy, Lab and Nutrition Services who he wanted recognized, and wrote in detail of the excellent care provided by Dr. Fields, who he says "possesses the qualities of an old school internist with cutting-edge practice."

Wrote John about his three-day stay: "Your staff went the extra mile to assure that everything was done in the kindest, most professional and timely way. You should be very proud of them and yourself for providing the best possible experience for me that I could imagine.

"I believe you have fostered within your team and individually the appropriation of the Mission in the most essential way, that being the transfer of the mission from the printed word to the mind, then to the heart, then to the PATIENT."

Thank you, John, for taking the time to recognize your colleagues for their service!

Hats off from Chris Blake's coworkers

Before joining Via Christi seven years ago as a mental health protection worker, Chris Blake served in both the U.S. Marine Corps and Navy, where he served as a corpsman. His medical experience, wrote coworkers Becky Walker, RN, and tech Linda Reekie, in nominating him for Patterson Legal Group's "Hats Off to Heroes" award, "is only one gift he's continued to carry on to help many others."

Chris, they said, ensures that patients and staff are kept safe while in the hospital. He is the "go to guy" whenever staff encounters a difficult lab draw and is someone who counts every person with dignity and respect; in his free time, the father of five is supportive of Wichita's VA homeless outreach program. Becky and Linda said they couldn't think of anyone more deserving and the Patterson Legal Group agreed.

So hats off to Chris—and also the coworkers who stepped up to recognize the hero in their midst—who was honored at Tuesday's WSU Men's Basketball game!