

Nursing update



Leading the way in palliative care

Via Christi Palliative Care Specialist Deanna Speer, MSN, RN, CHPN, has been asked to serve on the Palliative Care Council established by the 2018 Kansas State Legislature. Deanna was appointed to the 13-member council by Kansas Senate President Susan Wagle.

The Council will be responsible for developing recommendations and advising the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on matters related to the statewide establishment, maintenance, operation, outcomes evaluation of palliative care initiatives as well as helping evaluate their effectiveness. The purpose is to maximize the effectiveness of Kansas' palliative care initiatives by ensuring comprehensive and accurate information and education is available to the public, healthcare providers, and healthcare facilities.

"I truly consider it an honor," says Deanna, and indeed it is. Thank you for your leadership and service in this area!

An affirming welcome

EMT Olivia Wallace says she walked into the Emergency Department at Via Christi Hospital St. Joseph on her first day "not knowing much." She walked out approximately 12 hours later "full of confidence and very humbled" with the help of teammate Andrew Davis.

"He took the time to show me step by step how everything works, where everything is, and how to step up as a MVP," she wrote in a recent email to nurse manager Russell Clark, RN. Andrew set goals for her for the shift, which she reports that they "crushed," and made sure that she and everyone else knew she was part of the ER family.

"Andrew is not only compassionate, intelligent, laid back, fun and caring, he's an A-plus tech, the kind you want standing in your corner at all times," she wrote, adding that thanks to Andrew, the transition has been easier than expected and that believes she is right where she needs to be, doing what she needs to be doing. All in all, a perfect example of how you build and retain a great team!

Model Community starts with you

While the results of this year's Model Community Survey are still being tabulated, Kansas/Via Christi was No. 3 Ascension-wide for most-improved participation—up 13 percent over our 2017 rate and surpassing this year's goal by 1 percent. Keep up the great work in sharing your voice, which you can continue to do during daily huddles, leader rounding and through your supervisor and Nursing leaders. Together, we can and will be the best place to give and receive care!