

# Nursing update



## Opportunity to grow your career

Last year, many of Via Christi nurses took advantage of the Professional Development Program to advance their knowledge and the quality of care in their area – and to be recognized and rewarded for their efforts.

The program is being offered again this year. However, to participate, you must submit Intent to Apply form by 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 30. The 2018 fiscal year programs, the timeframe for collection of evidence is July 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018.

The deadline for completed portfolio submission is 5 p.m. April 30, 2018. Depending on the level achieved nurses can receive a payout range from \$1,800 to \$4,000.

“We continue to commit time rewarding and recognizing the professional contributions of our nurses who provide bedside care,” says Carla Yost, system chief nursing officer for Via Christi Health.

## ONCtoberfest a cornucopia of learning opportunities

For a third year, nurses serving in Via Christi Cancer Institute are leading a three-day educational program Oct. 16, 17 and 19, designed to help nurses who care for patients with cancer be better prepared.

While the presentations, including a number of free continuing education opportunities, are geared toward the special needs of cancer patients, many are applicable to all areas of care.

The annual education activity was launched and organized by bedside nurses who recognized the need for additional training and decided not to wait for someone else to provide it. “We were at an Oncology Nursing Society Congress and saw a poster presentation about another facility’s oncology-specific education sessions and decided, ‘Why couldn’t we do that,’” says Tari Hopper, RN, BSN, OCN.

In a few short months, they recruited physicians, nursing colleagues and other bedside caregivers to present. The content, and variety of offerings, has continued to grow each year.

This year’s event will include a hands-on opportunity to handle some of the equipment utilized in the care of cancer patients so that it’s more familiar to nurses should the need present.

Leading this year’s effort are Tari; Missy Grier, MSN, APRN, ACNS-BC; and Rebekah Snyder, RN, OCN. Registration is available through MyLearning under ONCtoberfest2017.