



30th Annual
NIGHTINGALE AWARDS FOR NURSING EXCELLENCE®

Thursday, May 10, 2018



Saluting the Last 30 Years of Nursing in Southeast Michigan

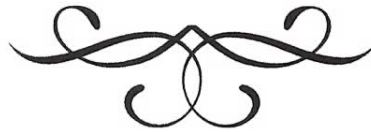
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ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING AND RESEARCH AWARD

The Advanced Practice Nursing and Research award is presented to a nurse who demonstrates excellence in complex patient care. This individual is a clinical expert who develops creative approaches to the practice of nursing, oftentimes serving as a mentor to others and regularly makes significant improvements in care to directly benefit the patient.

Special thanks to Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners for their generosity in sponsoring the Advanced Nurse Practice and Research award.



2018 NIGHTINGALE WINNER



MARY JO SMITH, MS, MPH, BSN, RN

Clinical Nurse Specialist for Cardiology
at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor
Nominated by: Odette Naughton

Mary Jo travels on a continuous path of quality improvement, particularly related to patients who have experienced heart failure. She is the co-chair of the Code Blue Collaborative Practice Team and leads the Code Blue Simulation with residents, nurses and respiratory therapists. Her team, in just one year, moved from bronze to silver award status from the American Heart Association's *Get with the Guidelines* (GWTG) national database. Her unit is in the fifth quintile, which is better than 80 percent of all hospitals in the GWTG database for risk-adjusted survival to discharge for all inpatient cardiac arrests. Under her guidance, the survival rate has improved from 29.3 percent in 2015 to 36.1 percent in 2017, which is 11 percentage points above the national average. Mary Jo has been an RN for 46 years and is described lovingly as a 'walking textbook' by her colleagues, who highly value her expansive wealth of knowledge. In her free time, Mary Jo serves as Board of Director to Arbor Hospice, volunteers for Healthy Hearts 101 and is a clinical preceptor for CNS students for Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State University, University of Michigan and Madonna University. After serving for 47 years as a practicing nurse, Mary Jo will retire this coming year.

2018 NIGHTINGALE RUNNER UP



MAKENZIE LYNN THIMM, MSN, AG-ACNP, BC-CCRN

Stroke Coordinator, Nurse Practitioner
at St. John Providence Hospital and Medical Center
Nominated by: Lacey Lou R. Lefere

Makenzie is known for her relentless energy and drive for excellence in determining the best practices and highest quality healthcare for stroke survivors and their families, while maintaining her passion for bedside care. In her role, she identified a need to improve their "door to needle" times when stroke patients enter care. She changed the policy to require an Advanced Practice Provider (APRN) at every code stroke that occurs within the hospital or Emergency Department. This has increased "door to needle" times from 45 to over 80 percent of the time (the Joint Commission only requires 50 percent). She is heavily involved in the design and approval phases of the new neuro ICU/Step-Down Unit, which will allow all stroke care to be in one specialized area rather than spread across four or more units. She is also currently leading the institution in becoming one of only nine Comprehensive Stroke Centers in Michigan. In her free time, Makenzie volunteers for the Rose Senior Center, VanElslander Center, Gibraltar Senior Health Fair and the Go Red Event, held annually at Cobo Hall.