



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Ashley Gramann

Phone: 618-651-2588

Email: Ashley.Gramann@hshs.org

PRESS RELEASE

**HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Highland Honors
Nursing Staff for Clinical Development Growth**

HIGHLAND— HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Highland recently honored twelve registered nurses (RNs) who continued their clinical development growth by participating in the hospital's Nursing Clinical Ladder (NCL) program.

The NCL promotes the lifelong pursuit of expertise of the clinical nurse. The overall goal of the program is to continue to provide high quality nursing care and opportunities for clinical nurses to experience professional growth and advancement. To apply for the program, nurses must complete a pledge of participation to commit to the program over a determined period of time.

There are four levels of clinical growth outlined in the program, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Each level outlines requirements for achievement that increase the higher the level. These include references from co-workers/managers and some exemplars (written illustrations of the nurse's professional practice) about patients the nurse has cared for and learned from. Nurses are also required to have a selection of continuing education pertinent to their unit.

St. Joseph's recently honored the following RNs who continued their clinical development growth in the NCL program:

Platinum Level

- Lyndsey Gelly

Gold Level

- Holly Deien
- Emily Duffin
- Stephanie Grant
- Samantha Hempen
- Melissa Menietti
- Tammy Rench
- Irene Siebert

Silver Level

- Casey Bifoss
- Caitlin Harrison
- Vicki Huelsmann
- Caitlin Sullivan

Each level has monetary awards for recipients who achieve that level. A total of \$21,000 was divided amongst the twelve individuals depending on the level of achievement reached.

Teresa Cornelius, chief nursing officer, shared, “I congratulate these nurses whose participation in this program demonstrates their commitment to advancing their knowledge, leadership and practice excellence. Their dedication ultimately leads to higher quality care for our patients.”

For more information about HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital Highland, visit the hospital’s website at stjosephshighland.org.

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Photo Caption #1: HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital Highland recently honored registered nurses (RNs) who continued their clinical development growth by participating in the hospital’s Nursing Clinical Ladder (NCL) program. Some of the recipients included (left to right) Emily Duffin (Gold level), Caitlin Sullivan (Silver level), Caitlin Harrison (Silver level), and Lyndsey Gelly (Platinum level). Not pictured: Stephanie Grant (Gold level), Vicki Huelsmann (Silver level), and Irene Siebert (Gold level).

Photo Caption #2: Registered nurses at HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital Highland can commit to continuing their clinical development growth by participating in the hospital’s Nursing Clinical Ladder (NCL) program. Some recent honorees include (left to right) Melissa Menietti (Gold level), Casey Bifoss (Silver level), Tammy Rench (Gold level), Holly Deien (Gold level), and Samantha Hempen (Gold level).

About Hospital Sisters Health System

Hospital Sisters Health System’s (HSHS) mission is to reveal and embody Christ’s healing love for all people through our high-quality Franciscan health care ministry. HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care to our patients and is dedicated to serving all people, especially the most vulnerable, at each of our physician practices and 15 local hospitals in two states – Illinois (Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Greenville, Highland, Litchfield, O’Fallon, Shelbyville and Springfield) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Oconto Falls, Sheboygan and two in Green Bay). HSHS is sponsored by Hospital Sisters Ministries, and [Hospital Sisters of St. Francis](http://HospitalSistersofStFrancis.org) is the founding institute. For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org. For more information about Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, visit www.hospitalsisters.org.