



PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES AWARDS BANQUET AND CELEBRATION

October 9, 2018



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W E L C O M E

Tonight, we continue a tradition started in 2016 where many of the Texas Panhandle communities, healthcare and nursing organizations across the Texas Panhandle have come together to celebrate the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses! With the initial vision of a handful of nursing leaders, along with the generous support and hard work of many individuals and businesses, we are able to make tonight's celebration a continued reality. We have applauded the practice, caring, and compassion of nurses across the Texas Panhandle and celebrated our professions' successes through the years. You have nominated the best of the best, and tonight we are recognizing not only 27 great individuals, but also the Art and Science of Nursing as a profession. It is our mission to recognize Registered Nurses for their caring, compassionate service in the Texas Panhandle. All profits from donations and sponsorships is used to provide scholarships for RN students in our local nursing programs.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for celebrating with us tonight. And thank you for supporting the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses!

**Valerie Kiper, DNP, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
Co-Chair-Panhandle Great 25 Nurses**

**Richard Pullen, EdD, MSN, RN, CMSRN
Co-Chair-Panhandle Great 25 Nurses**

OUR MISSION

To recognize Registered Nurses for their caring, compassionate service in the Texas Panhandle.

AGENDA

3rd Annual Panhandle Great 25 Nurses

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Polk Street United Methodist Church, Amarillo, TX

5:30 pm – 6 pm

Seating

5:30 pm – 7 pm

Coffee Bar

6pm -6:40

Invocation and Dinner

Invocation by Ruth Whitehead, RN
Texas Nurses Association - District 2

6:40 pm- 8 pm

PROGRAM

- **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Dr. Richard Pullen & Dr. Valerie Kiper
Co-Chairs, Panhandle Great 25 Nurses

- **Recognition of Scholarship Recipients**

Carolyn Witherspoon, RN
Scholarship Committee Chair

- **Presentation of 2018 Great 25 Nurses**

Dr. Holly Jeffreys

Special Address

Dr. Jeff Watson, President, Texas Nurses Association
Ruth Whitehead, RN

Closing Remarks

Dr. Richard Pullen & Dr. Valerie Kiper



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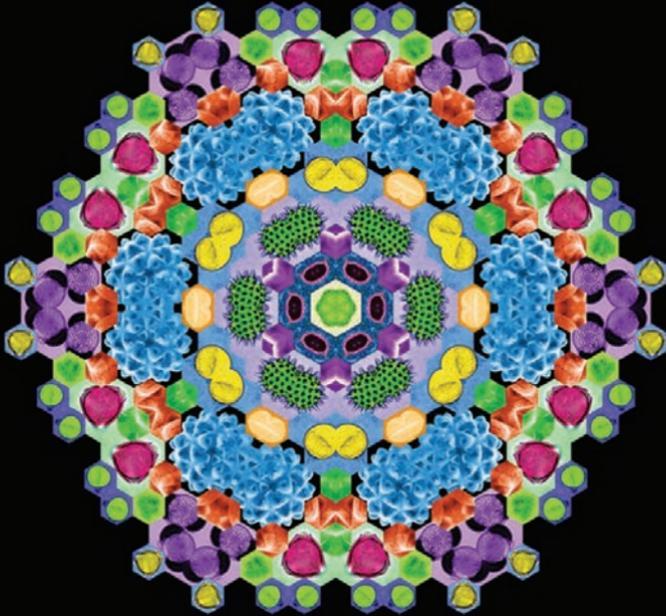
The commitment, teamwork and dedication of our nurses has helped BSA earn many national accolades.

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Congratulations

Panhandle Great 25 Nurses

We are proud that five nurses from

Northwest Texas Healthcare System

are being recognized!

Machelle Funtek, RN

Angie Hamilton, RN

Carolyn Hudson, RN

Clint LaFever, RN

Teri Quattlebaum, RN

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www.ttuhscc.edu/nursing/

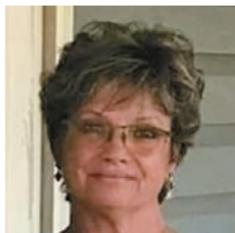
PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES



Melanie Allen

RN

I have always believed in the theory, in life as well as in nursing, if you give selflessly of yourself without the expectation of reward, you will be amazed how rewards will come to you. I can say being a part of this group is an honor and a humbling reward.



Beth Attebury

BSN, RN, RNC-OB, MBA-HCA

Receiving this prestigious award means validation of a 36-year nursing career of always putting forth my knowledge, heart, skills, patient advocacy and advancement of quality care in the field of Nursing. I am more than honored to be among the top 25 Panhandle nurses named here today.



Tony Badillo

RN

To be recognized with such an amazing group of nurses past & present is both overwhelming & humbling. I have always hoped somehow in some small way I could make a difference within my life and career. Nursing has given me that opportunity and so much more. I'm truly honored. Thank you.



Adonna Ballard

MSN, RN

I am tremendously honored to receive this award. I have had the good fortune to be influenced by brilliant and compassionate nurses who mentored me, encouraged my further education, and shared my passion in providing quality education opportunities to nurses. I am proud to have had an impact on our profession.



John Blakley

RN, BSN

For years I dreamed of making a difference in people's lives. Becoming a nurse has allowed me to fulfill my dream. I'm humbled and honored to be chosen. I wouldn't be the nurse I am today without the loving support of my family, colleagues and the blessing of Jesus Christ.

PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES



Sis Bond
RN

I am humbled that I have been nominated for this award, but I choose to serve and care for others. I started out in Labor and Delivery in 1984 and did OB/GYN for 30 years and now I am in Hospice. I do the full circle of life. I am truly honored that they allow me to be a part of their lives at such a vulnerable time.



Christine (Chris) Brewer
RN

The thing that I love about nursing is that we have the opportunity daily to impact many people. Sometimes it's with knowledge but sometimes it's with a hug. Like a pebble that has been thrown into a pond, you never know how far the ripples go.



Darla Caldwell
BSN, RN, CPPS

I am humbled by this award. I am driven by a passion for patient safety and my desire to improve patient care. This award is a reflection on my mentors and co-workers who have taught me to focus on the patient above all else.



Abbie Cano
BSN, RN

Choose a profession that you love and you will never have to work a day in your life! I am truly honored and humbled to have received this award, to be recognized alongside so many other fantastic nurses. This award inspires me to want to be a better nurse today than I was yesterday.



Shirley Collins
BSN, RN

I am humbled at being selected for this honor. In thinking of this, I gratefully reflect on the mentors, role models and experiences I have had, both as a student and as a nurse. I am thankful for those that helped mold and develop me. My desire is to continue to help mold and develop others... and to maybe be one who they reflect on one day. Thank you.

**Lisa Formby**

RN

I am both humbled and grateful for TNA District 2's recognition of my work in the specialty practice of school nursing. Children with complex health needs, attending school for one third of their day, require a school nurse to be present all day, every day to provide and coordinate care.

**Machele Funtek**

RN, CCRN, CVN

The Panhandle has a very strong and knowledgeable nursing community. I have been blessed to work beside many amazing nurses in my career and I am honored to be recognized as one of the Panhandle 25 Great Nurses. I enjoy caring for my patients and working alongside my nursing family.

**Jay Griggs**

RN

It is an honor to receive this recognition. Several wonderful mentors have paved the way during my nursing career. I have had a very rewarding journey thus far; from bedside, to education, to leadership to currently working in the EMR world. Caring and Compassion is my work philosophy.

**Angie Hamilton**

RN

This recognition means so much to me. I am overwhelmed with emotion just thinking about it. I have the best hospital, doctor, boss, team, and co-workers supporting me. My family and work family both encourage me to be the best I can. Thank you so much for this honor!

**Elizabeth Hammond**

RN

I am as humbled as I am honored to have this recognition bestowed on me. I would like to thank God first, that He has used me to serve others, and I want to thank my husband, children and grandchildren for their love and support.

PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES



Carolyn Hudson

MSN, RN

I am honored to be recognized this year. I am surrounded by talented nurses and leaders that are supportive of my nursing and leadership practice. This reinforces to me that my peers and colleagues share in my mission to positively influence the nursing practices and patient safety for our community.



Verena Johnson

MSN, RN, CNE

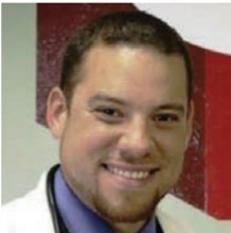
This is such a great honor. It has been my privilege to be a nurse caring for people during the best and worst of times. I have been taught by nurses, cared for by nurses, call nurses my friend and am educating the next generation of nurses. Nursing is who I am.



Clint LaFever

BSN, RN, MHA

It is an honor to be nominated and selected for this recognition. I'm thankful for the support and encouragement of my family, educators, mentors and peers. It is a privilege to be recognized along with this elite group of professionals, as we continue to promote and develop the nursing profession.



Dustin Lambert

MSN, APRN, FNP-C, VA-BC

I believe nurses are the heart and soul of healthcare and I feel very honored, grateful, and humbled to be considered among the great panel of nurses being recognized this year.



Yessenia Longoria

MSN, RN, CMSRN, CCCTM

Being a nurse and having the privilege of helping others is rewarding in itself. I am truly honored to be recognized by fellow nurses and am grateful to my family and the many amazing people who have been a part of my journey along the way. Thank you!

**Misti Moore**

BSN, RN

It is quite a privilege to receive this nomination and recognition from some outstanding nurses. I am honor to be recognized next to such amazing individuals in nursing. I have a true passion for nursing and developing those who want to make a difference and pursue their healthcare professions.

**Melissa Peavey**

RN

As an honoree of the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses for 2018, I am both humbled and encouraged by this recognition. It is through the support, mentoring and encouragement of others within the nursing profession that such recognition is possible. I am grateful to be a part of this profession.

**Teri Quattlebaum**

BSN, RN

I am honored that my career is considered by my peers to be significant, and humbled to be included with other nurses who have received this award. This award challenges me to find new ways to help advance nursing and improve patient care in our region. I'm just getting started!

**Charlene Seale**

DNP, RN, FNP-C, VA-BC

This recognition signifies to me that my peers recognize my deep commitment to the practice of nursing.

**Susan Stach**

BSN, RN

I am honored and humbled to receive this recognition. God has blessed me richly with a family that supported my career choice and modeled compassion for others and service to the community. I owe a debt of gratitude to the many influential nurses who have mentored and encouraged me.

PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES



Jessica Welch

BSN, RN

I work with many outstanding nurses who deserve this recognition. I am humbled to have been selected. Being a nurse is truly a calling and not just a career. Thank you to the people who have supported me along the way. And glory to God... for without Him, I am nothing.



Jean Whitehead

BSN, RN, MHA, EMT-B

I share this recognition with all of the mentors and staff that I have worked with over the years. My nursing practice is the direct result of their influence in my life! This award means that perhaps I had an influence in their lives as well.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Mary Graham

*Texas Tech University
Health Sciences Center
Amarillo Campus –
Accelerated B.S.N.
program*



La Tina Lewis

*WTAMU –
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**Amanda
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Tiffany Ruthardt

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Family Nurse
Practitioner program*



**Justin
Walker-Mulanax**

*Amarillo College –
ADN program*

2017 & 2016 HONOREES PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES

2017 Panhandle GREAT 25 Nurses

- Imagen Bradford, RN – Retired RN
- Robert Brown, RN – Children’s Home Healthcare
- Belinda Gibson, RN – BSA Health System
- Michele Gorday, RN – BSA Health System
- Kylie Griffitt, RN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- Jesus Hernandez, RN – BSA Health System
- Teresa Herrera, RN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- Brent Hickmott, RN – Amarillo VA Health Care System
- Mary Holcomb, RN – BSA Health System
- Kristina Hudson, RN – BSA Health System
- Jana Kidd, RN – Amarillo VA Health Care System
- Marilyn May, RN – Amarillo VA Health Care System
- Lisa Miller, RN – Amarillo VA Health Care System
- Melissa Miller, RN – Amarillo VA Health Care System
- Jennifer Moore, RN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- Farley Naples, RN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- Becky O’Neal, RN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- Louise Osteen, RN – Amarillo VA Health Care System
- Crystal Ramos, RN – BSA Health System
- Glenda Sappington, RN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- Candice Smith, RN – Hereford Regional Medical Center
- Leanna Tijerina, RN – Amarillo VA Health Care System
- Lisa Touma, RN – BSA Health System
- Michelle Wells, RN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- David Williams, RN – BSA Health System

2016 Panhandle GREAT 25 Nurses

- Kristi Baca, RN – Coon Memorial Hospital
- Susan Cooper Bailey, RN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- Leslie Collier, RN – Children’s Home Health
- Danielle Contreras, RN – BSA Health System
- Bettie Lou Burk Crouch, RN – Hemphill County Hospital
- Danneva Eddleman, RN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- Deloris Ellibee, RN – Moore County Hospital
- Kelly Galloway, RN – Coon Memorial Hospital
- Nancy Griego, RN – Hereford Rural Clinic
- Christopher Heath, RN – Neighbors Emergency Center
- Betty Henry, RN (retired) – WTAMU
- Terrah Jamandron, RN – Neighbors Emergency Center
- Suzanna Jarrell, RN – Ochliltee General Hospital
- Meri Killingsworth, RN – Hereford Regional Medical Center
- Dr. Valerie Kiper, RN – School of Nursing, Texas Tech Health Sciences Center
- Lesley Pierce, RN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- Laura Reyher, RN – WTAMU
- Kimberly Riddlespurger, RN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- John B. Sappington, RN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- Kate Schaefer, RN – Childress Regional Medical Center
- Norma Pina Smith, RN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- Bonnie Stull, RN – Coon Memorial Hospital
- Courtney Terrel, RN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- Nora Wells, RN – Moore County Hospital
- Carolyn Veteto, RN – BSA Health System



IN MEMORIAM



Imagen Bradford, RN
2017 Panhandle Great 25 Nurse Honoree



Bonnie Stull, RN
2016 Panhandle Great 25 Nurse Honoree



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Texas Panhandle Coalition for Nursing

TPCN is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit coalition that was established in 2004. Its membership consists of representatives from nursing academia and area nursing employers. The mission of the organization is to ensure we have an adequate supply of nurses to meet the demands of the Texas Panhandle area.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please call:

Carolyn Witherspoon at (806) 337-1700 ext. 203.



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HOSTS OF PANHANDLE G25

Texas Nurses Association District 2 and Panhandle Organization of Nurse Executives

Visit www.panhandlegreat25.com to learn more about Panhandle Great 25 Nurses' Event and Scholarships.

Like us on Facebook at **Panhandle Great 25 Nurses** and share your pictures from tonight's event.

Music Provided By Jennifer Akins, Pianist

Jennifer Akins has served as Music Director and Rehearsal and Audition Pianist for Amarillo Little Theatre for many years.

Jennifer is a graduate of WTAMU with a degree in Music Education. She also plays the piano at First Christian Church.

Having played the piano most of her life, Jennifer enjoys playing all genres of music, from Classical and jazz standards to current pop and rock as well as musical theater.

Video Production by Chase Brady

Chase is a sophomore at West Texas A&M getting a degree in digital media. Chase filmed all interviews and created all the video content for the Panhandle Great 25 Nurse's event. Chase is the WTTV Content Producer as well as a member of Maroon

Productions. Chase specializes in video content, graphic animation and graphic design and hopes to get a job in the postproduction field after graduation.

Photographs by Emily Prisk Creative

To access photographs taken at the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses Event, please go to the gallery link:

emilyprisk.shootproof.com/gallery/great25nurses

Images from this event will be available no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, October 10, 2018.



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Tiffany Ruthardt (Pre-Licensure) • Amanda Hokanson (RN to BSN)

**WTAMU ALUMNI ON THEIR SELECTION
AS "PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES"**

Darla Caldwell – BSA

Jean Whitehead – AACAL

Adonna Ballard – Region 16

Charlene Seale – Amarillo VA

Dustin Lambert – Amarillo VA

Shirley Collins – BSA

Abbie Canno – Borger AISD

Misty Moore – BSA

Susan Stach – Region 16

Teri Quattlebaum – NWTH

**ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS WINNERS
CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION**

Donna Raff Kizzar • LaTina Lewis

*Special thanks to Chase Brady, WTAMU sophomore seeking
a B.S. in digital media for producing tonight's videos.*

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