

For Immediate Release

Broussard Receives Nightingale Award for Nurse Administrator of the Year

Weber and UMC Receive Nominations

LAFAYETTE (January 29, 2008) – Mary Broussard, RN, MSN, director of nursing for University Medical Center (UMC), received the Nightingale Award for Nurse Administrator of the Year from the Louisiana State Nurses Foundation and the Louisiana State Nurses Association.

The award is to recognize an outstanding registered nurse who administers the business and patient-care activities of a hospital and manages its personnel, demonstrating excellent managerial skills, leadership, mentorship, high standards of continuing education, and participation in professional associations.

This “Academy Award” of quality service in the nursing and healthcare industry is determined by a panel of out-of-state judges from throughout the nation.

With more than 50 years experience in nursing, patient advocacy, nursing education, and nursing supervision, Frances Weber, RNC, UMC special projects coordinator, was nominated for the Nightingale Hall of Fame Award.

UMC was nominated for Nightingale Award for Hospital of the Year, for a facility with 100 beds or more.

Broussard began her association with the state hospital system as a “Blue Angel” teen volunteer in 1969 on the pediatric unit of Lafayette Charity Hospital (LCH), which would become UMC. With extensive experience with student nursing associations and activities, including serving on the Governor’s Statewide Planning Committee for Nursing and working on the revision of the Nurse Practice Act, she graduated from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

While in school she worked each summer and into the fall semester of her senior year as a career trainee at LCH and upon graduation began there as a staff nurse. In 1979 she was promoted to head nurse, in 1987 to multi-area manager, in 1993 to associate director of nursing, and in 2005 to director of nursing.

She is the UMC liaison with Hospice of Acadiana, Louisiana Organ Procurement Organization and the Office of Public Health and the advisory boards of Louisiana Technical College in Lafayette, LSU Eunice Nursing Department, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

She has been licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing since 1976 and certified in nursing administration by the American Nurses Credentialing Center since 1997.

She received her Master of Science degree in community psychosocial nursing at Southeastern University in 1999.

She received the 2001 Acadiana Celebrates Nursing award; the 1988 University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL) College of Nursing Outstanding Alum award; and lifetime honorary membership from the Louisiana State Nursing Association District IV, which represents a seven-parish area.

She served as college representative, board member, and treasurer of the USL Alumni Association and on the board of the Woman's Foundation. She is a spokesperson on nursing and its traditions, professionalism, and culture and diversity in the health care setting.

Photo of Mary Broussard attached.

One of the largest public hospital systems in the country, the LSU Health Care Services Division is the medical provider for almost 20% of Louisiana's population. It has over 60,000 admissions, 350,000 patient days, 1 million outpatient visits, and over 350,000 emergency department visits. Each year 1700 residents from the LSU and Tulane Schools Of Medicine and Ochsner Health System and 4,000 nurses and allied health students from many colleges and universities are trained in LSU HCSD facilities.

LSU HCSD is the largest single provider of uncompensated inpatient care in Louisiana. LSU hospitals have an economic impact of over \$1.6 billion in asset business activity, \$918 million in personal earnings, and support over 10,000 jobs.

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