

AWARD

Local nurse practitioner earns national award



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Dr. JoAnn Franklin, KN, DNP of Lesterville, is among a select few nurse practitioners and nurse practitioner advocates across the United States who will be receiving the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) 2015 State Award for Excellence.

The presentation will be made at an awards ceremony and reception held during the AANP 2015 National Conference being held June 9-14 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The award, founded in 1991, recognizes a nurse practitioner (NP) in a state who demonstrates excellence in practice. In 1993, the State Award for Nurse Practitioner Advocate was added to recognize the efforts of individuals who have made a significant contribution toward increasing awareness and acceptance of NPs.

"I was excited when I learned that I was selected as the top nurse practitioner in Missouri," Franklin said. "It's quite a prestigious award and quite an honor."

Franklin added that she and her husband were looking forward to taking the trip to New Orleans to accept the award.

"It's going to be a lot of fun going back there," she said. "I know my husband and I are going to have a great time."

Franklin is employed by the University of Missouri in the largest research grant in the history of the school. The \$14.8 million grant award is from the Centers of Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) and is the Missouri Quality Improvement Project for Long Term Care. She is conducting this research at NHC in Desloge.

"The goal is to reduce resident transfers to hospitals by recognizing illness early and treating it," Franklin said. "We hope to see a decrease in the use of polypharmacy in the nursing home and not use anti-psychotic medications in dementia, but instead let the dementia patient be themselves without drugs. NHC is one of a select few that is in the forefront of this new approach."

An advocate for residents to complete advance directives, Franklin earned her Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) from Saint Louis University in 2010, and has been an RN since 1973 when she graduated from Barnes School of Nursing. She also holds a BSN from Maryville University.

Franklin is a psychiatric nurse practitioner graduating from Washington University School of Medicine and a Geriatric and Family Board certified nurse practitioner from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She has worked in primary care at Black River Health Center, Great Mines Health Center, Midwest Convenient Care and the Parkland Health Center emergency room.