



News & Information

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Local nurse receives national recognition

CARLSBAD, NM – MAY 14, 2010 – – Vonda Fitch, RN, was recently honored as the recipient of the 2010 Advocacy Award by the ABPANC (American Board of PeriAnesthesia Nursing Certification, Inc.). Fitch has been an employee of Carlsbad Medical Center since 1986, working in the surgery department as a Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN), Certified Post Anesthesia Nurse (CPAN) and Certified Ambulatory PeriAnesthesia Nurse (CPAN), and maintains many other professional certifications as well.

According to the ABPANC's website, winners of the Advocacy Award exemplify leadership as a patient advocate in the following ways:

- Provides Emphatic Care: Accepts an individual's underlying concerns and needs and provides education, comfort, and support as appropriate. Is direct and genuine in patient interactions, breaking through emotional barriers to identify true needs.
- Uses Standards of Excellence: Ensures that patient care is based on or surpasses a standard of excellence. Implements specific changes in the current system or in work methods in order to improve performance and quality.
- Advocates for the Patient and/or Significant Others: Steps in to provide solutions that may not be readily apparent to meet identified needs of the patient or significant others. This may necessitate involving others to manage existing symptoms and matching solutions to identified needs.
- Takes Initiative: Identifies a problem, obstacle, or opportunity and takes action without being directed, in order to address current or future problems or opportunities.
- Demonstrates Interpersonal Understanding: Is able to accurately hear and understand the spoken or partly-expressed thoughts, feelings and concerns of others. Has a deeper and more complex understanding of others that includes cross-cultural sensitivity.

Fitch recently accepted the Advocacy Award during the ABPANC CPAN/CAPA Celebration Breakfast, held in conjunction with the ASPAN (American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses) National Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. Roni Barnhart, RN, Pre-Surgery Nurse at CMC, nominated Fitch for the award. "Vonda's dedication and positive attitude are genuine and inspiring," she said. "Her passion for nursing and quality patient care, her dedication to the education of her fellow nurses, and her outstanding leadership qualities have earned her the respect of all who know her. Carlsbad Medical Center is fortunate to have her as a staff member."

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About Carlsbad Medical Center

Carlsbad Medical Center is a full-service 127-bed community hospital. Since 2004, CMC has reinvested a total of \$20 million in improvements and expansions, including a new Outpatient Diagnostic Center, upgraded diagnostic imaging equipment, an expanded Intensive Care Unit, and an upgraded and expanded Emergency Department. A \$15 million renovation project is currently underway, and will result in additional operating rooms, a renovated Women's Services Unit, and a remodeled front entrance and lobby.