

June 9, 2022

Wyoming Hospital Association
2005 Warren Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001
ATTN: Norman S. Holt Award
Fax: 307-632-9347
E-mail: rose@wyohospitals.com

To whom it may concern,

Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County (MHSC) is pleased to nominate Patty O'Lexey BSN, RN for the Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence. Ms. O'Lexey is currently the Director of Education at MHSC. Ms. O'Lexey has over 15 years of nursing experience at MHSC. Nursing roles included Intensive Care Unit (ICU), primary care, case management, chronic care management, education, and director of the cardiac rehabilitation unit. Ms. O'Lexey's vast experience, the expertise, care, and compassion demonstrated to patients, families, and staff throughout all levels of the organization, and her connection with the community, make her a perfect candidate for the Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence.

Ms. O'Lexey strives to maintain and advance the profession of nursing. Ms. O'Lexey is currently the Wyoming Nurses Association (WNA) Southwest Region Secretary. The volunteer position she was voted into by nursing peers helps to support nurses within the Southwest Region of Wyoming, advance community involvement, and support the WNA mission and strategic plan within our community. Ms. O'Lexey was recently the recipient of the "Nursing Leadership Award" for the Southwest Region of WNA in May during the annual Nurses Week Celebration. The nomination included comments such as, "Patty is always willing to help and jump in when needed, she helps often on units during busy times, and when called she is always right there to help with a smile on her face." It is important to note that Ms. O'Lexey received several nominations in this category and the award recipient is voted on by peers.

Ms. O'Lexey collaborates with nursing schools to meet the needs of nursing students through clinical rotation design and scheduling, providing support and guidance during rotations, seeks to expand MHSCs relationships with nursing programs, creating new partnerships for nursing as well as other clinical areas, and meets regularly with the education department at the University of Utah, an affiliate of MHSC to maintain the current evidence-based practice in education and direct patient care activities. The desire to serve others leads to Ms. O'Lexey advancing her skills and knowledge while advancing others with her knack for communicating effectively in all departments and levels within the organization and with community partners. The knowledge that Ms. O'Lexey possesses is felt by all with the self-awareness and individualized care provided in every interaction with staff, patients, and families. Ms. O'Lexey has volunteered to participate in improving the patient experience at MHSC, through leading education classes, providing resources, and emulating the PlaneTree philosophy.

Ms. O'Lexey has provided creative and innovative ideas over the last several years during and post-pandemic. Ms. O'Lexey has been involved in the formation and an active participant in COVID-19 testing and vaccine clinics to meet the needs of Sweetwater County, created a rapid on-boarding orientation process for staff entering the facility or floating to unfamiliar departments, and has provided several opportunities for education on cultural improvements within hospital environments. Educational programs included incivility workshops, a weekly cultural change program through the Healthy

Workforce Institute, and several leadership workshops presented by staff at the University of Utah. Ms. O'Lexey was an active participant in several of the emergency Incident Command structures that have been set up, providing valuable ideas through her expertise and knowledge about nursing and the organization as a whole.

During Ms. O'Lexey's primary role as Director of Education, she provides support in several other areas. Ms. O'Lexey is an instructor for BLS/CPR for the Healthcare Provider, AHA Heart Saver Courses, Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) courses for MHSC staff and the community, teaches PlaneTree workshops, works as a House Supervisor, provides patient education in the nursing units, is a resource for nursing staff, provides education to patients and families for Wyoming Advanced Directive, participates in local health fairs, and is a notary. Ms. O'Lexey is an excellent role model for others within the organization, striving to meet the needs of patients and families, going above and beyond her primary role at MHSC daily. This past year, she has personally provided over 130 orientations for full time and travel staff, oriented nearly 100 students completing clinical rotations at MHSC, collaborated with nursing informatics on creating an education plan for a new electronic medical record, created education courses for staff surrounding COVID within the learning management system (LMS), assisted with swabbing stations and vaccine clinics, participated in HERO day at Sweetwater County School District #1, demonstrating to students and staff the personal protective equipment that must be applied before taking care of patients at MHSC.

MHSC hopes that you will consider Ms. O'Lexey for the Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence. Ms. O'Lexey exceeds the criteria in her concern for the profession and its improvement, improved skills and knowledge, respect by peers, compassion for patients and family members, creativity and innovation in nursing care, dedication to providing the highest quality of care possible, and a positive work approach to superiors, peers, and subordinates. Ms. O'Lexey is a blessing, emulating the nursing profession and professional standards to the highest degree.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ann Marie Clevenger DNP, RN
Chief Nursing Officer
Cell: 307-707-2345
aclevenger@sweetwatermemorial.com
Main 307-362-3711, Office 307-352-8301, Fax 307-352-8337
1200 College Dr., Rock Springs, WY 82901
www.sweetwatermemorial.com