

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Nursing Director Receives Nightingale Award in Louisiana



Mary Broussard, RN, MSN, director of nursing for University Medical Center (UMC) at Lafayette, La., 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.

“Mary is like an icon in our system,” said Martha G. Smith, Director of Statewide Nursing/Clinical Standardization, LSU Health Care Services Division. “There’s isn’t a more deserving person than Mary.”

“She started as a candy striper at her hospital and moved up to chief nursing officer. Mary exemplifies all of those great qualities when you think of nursing. She is a quality individual.”

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. She graduated from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1976 with a bachelor’s degree in nursing.

She joined LCH in 1976 as a staff nurse after having worked as career trainee while in college. In 1979, Broussard 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 received her master’s degree in community psychosocial nursing at Southeastern University in 1999. Broussard won 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.

University Medical Center is part of the LSU Health Care Services Division, the medical provider for almost 20 percent of Louisiana’s population and one of the largest public hospital systems in the country. It has more than 60,000 admissions, 350,000 patient days, 1 million outpatient visits and more than 350,000 emergency department visits. LSU Health Care Services Division has been an Amerinet member since 2001.