



VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT, INC.

News Release

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For Immediate Release



Local nursing students each awarded \$1,200 Nightingale scholarships (left to right): Brandon Ko of Yale University School of Nursing, Kaitlin Kowalsky of Sacred Heart University, Anna Kapusta of Quinnipiac University, April McGrath of Gateway Community College, Megan Green of Southern Connecticut State University, and President of VNA Health Systems, John R. Quinn.

Five Local Nursing Students Receive Nightingale Scholarships

The VNA of South Central CT hosts 2010 Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing Scholarship Reception

New Haven, CT (April 19, 2010) – John R. Quinn, President & CEO of VNA Health Systems, hosted the 2010 *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* Scholarship Reception on April 15 at VNA Health Systems headquarters at One Long Wharf. Nursing students from five local nursing schools were each awarded a \$1200 scholarship.

Scholarships were awarded to the following students: April McGrath of Gateway Community College, Anna Kapusta of Quinnipiac University, Kaitlin Kowalsky of Sacred Heart University, Megan Green of Southern Connecticut State University, and Brandon Ko of Yale University School of Nursing.

Since 2006, the *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing*, hosted by the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut, has awarded \$27,000 in scholarships.

“As president of the founding organization of the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing, it is an honor for me to acknowledge some of the region’s outstanding nursing students,” stated Quinn. “It is evident that these five scholarship recipients exhibit passion, dedication and a genuine love for nursing.”

The Nightingale scholarships are supported by the sponsorships of *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing*, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year on May 5th at the Oakdale Theatre. The *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* program was originally developed in 2001 by the [Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut](#) to be a collaborative effort to celebrate outstanding nurses and elevate the nursing profession. The goal of the Nightingale Awards are to encourage retention, inspire future nurses, focus public attention on and recognize the breadth and scope of nursing practice at the local level. In 2003, the *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* grew to include *Programs* in Greater Fairfield, Greater Hartford, and Eastern CT as well as the original program in New Haven.

The *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* are non-competitive and inclusive of all health care settings - hospitals, home health care, health centers, schools, health departments, long-term care facilities, nursing schools, agencies, and medical practices. Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses (full or part-time) who demonstrate excellence may be nominated for recognition by their employers if they are involved in clinical practice, leadership, scholarship, and/or education. To learn more about the May 5th event or to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.nightingalenursingawards.org/newhaven/>.

Sponsorship opportunities for the event are still available. For more information about becoming a sponsor or supporting the awards event, contact Jennifer Bernheim, Public Relations Coordinator, at 203-859-6765 or email nightingale@vnascc.org. Major sponsorship benefits include attending a private pre-event reception with Attorney General Richard Blumenthal.

About VNA Health Systems

VNA Health Systems is comprised of the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut (VNA/SCC) and CareSource, Inc.

Founded in 1904, the VNA/SCC, the original VNA of New Haven, Milford and the Valley, is a state licensed, non-profit, community based home health care agency. The VNA/SCC staff consists of highly skilled nurses, therapists, medical social workers and home health aides. A vital resource to the communities it serves, the VNA/SCC provides a wide range of specialized clinical services, community programs, the Nurturing Families Network and subsidized care to those who are in need. The agency employs over 230 staff members, has an average daily census of over 1,000 patients and makes over 170,000 home visits per year. The agency is the founder of the *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing*. The VNA/SCC is supported in part by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, local United Way organizations, corporate sponsors and individual donors.

CareSource strives to maximize the quality of life for its clients and their caregivers in the home and health care settings. Their services include private duty nursing, homemakers, companions and live-in home health aides. Both VNA/SCC and CareSource are CHAP (Community Health

Accreditation Program) accredited. To learn more about the organizations, log onto www.vnascc.org or www.caresourceinc.org.

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