

Omaha System Excellence Awards 2013

The biannual awards for meaningful and continued contributions to the Omaha System in Practice, Education, and Research were presented at the April 2013 Omaha System International Conference.

The Excellence in Practice award was presented to Kathleen L. Dubbels, RN, BSN, RNC, Public Health Nursing Manager. Kathleen has been a leader in integrating the Omaha System into practice and documentation within her agency and throughout the state of Minnesota. She has been a strong advocate for the appropriate and consistent use of the Omaha System within software systems. As a member of the Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative Quality Assurance Committee, Kathleen promoted the integration of Omaha System elements into the documentation system. She has been a leader in efforts to keep the Omaha System at the forefront of public health nurses' charting and practice through in-service education, use of the Omaha System as a basis for client assessment and evaluation of risk, and development of written care plans based on the Omaha System.

The Excellence in Education award went to Joseph T. Burley, RN, MNEd, Clinical Associate Professor; Manager of Electronic Communications Information and Security Administrator at the College of Nursing. Through the development and maintenance of the Omaha System website and listserv, Joseph has enabled nurses from the United States and over 19 countries to learn about the Omaha System. Joseph was first introduced to the Omaha System in 1979 while serving in the US Air Force. In 1990 he retired from the Air Force and took a position as assistant professor at the University of Florida where he worked with other faculty to integrate the Omaha System into the community health curriculum. In 1998 he suggested the value of a more user-friendly Omaha System website and the creation of an Omaha System Listserv. He obtained permission for the University of Florida to host the website and listserv and accepted responsibility for site management. Since that time, the listserv membership has grown to over 2000 individuals. His dedication to the creation and maintenance of the listserv has been critical to ongoing connections between and education of nurses nationally and internationally to the many uses of the Omaha System.

The Excellence in Research award was presented to Bonnie L. Westra, PhD, RN, FAAN, FACMI. Bonnie is an Associate Professor at University of Minnesota School of Nursing, Coordinator DNP Specialty in Informatics, and Director of the Center for Nursing Informatics. In her former position as Vice President at CareFacts, Bonnie included the Omaha System in the design of their software used for directing and documenting home health and public health nursing practice. Use of the software yielded standardized data for research within and across agencies. Bonnie has led and collaborated on multiple studies using the Omaha System including a comparison of data produced by the Omaha System with data produced by OASIS, the feasibility of combining data from multiple agencies to conduct research and a variety of clinical issues. Her work has been instrumental in developing and demonstrating creative data mining methods that have moved the science of Omaha System research to higher levels of sophistication. Her research findings have been widely disseminated through

presentations and publications. In addition to her own research, Bonnie has made a significant impact on advancement of knowledge of the Omaha System through mentoring and teaching others and has chaired or been on committees for dozens of dissertations and master's theses.

We congratulate the three winners who are representative of the many individuals who have contributed to the Omaha System over the years. The nomination process is not difficult and we encourage each of you to identify others who have contributed and to make a nomination for the 2015 awards.