Omaha System Excellence Awards 2019

The biannual awards for meaningful and continued contributions to the Omaha System in Practice, Education, and Research were presented at the April 2019 Omaha System International Conference.

An **Excellence in Practice** award was presented to **Kristin J. Erickson MS, RN, APHN-BC**, Public Health Nurse Consultant, Minnesota Department of Health, Fergus Falls.

Kristin began her Omaha System journey while a public health nurse and graduate student by converting evidence-based guidelines into clinical pathways using the Omaha System to address nutrition, physical activity, and tobacco. She transitioned to system-level implementation in her role as a practice facilitator by assisting four public health agencies to incorporate Omaha System clinical pathways into their practice. She developed an Omaha System clinical pathway to document her work at the community/system level with health care providers to implement evidence-based prevention guidelines within their practice. The KBS outcome ratings were used for program evaluation. In her new position at the Minnesota Department of Health, she has created an Omaha System Pathway for MDH public health nurse consultants to document their practice. Kristin is recognized for her creative practice, which is rooted in research, using the Omaha System to guide policy, system and environmental change at the local health department level and now advancing this work within the public health community statewide in Minnesota.

An **Excellence in Education** award was presented to **Daryl L. Canham EdD, RN, BC-PHN/CHN**, Professor and Coordinator of Nurse-managed Centers, San José State University, California.

Daryl was a member of the initial faculty group that introduced the Omaha System to the SJSU program and since then she has supported team-work to integrate the Omaha System into the BSN and MS curricula while also applying the Omaha System to the documentation system in the nurse-managed centers. She developed an innovative assignment for the Professional Role Development course where student teams from clinical sites identify a problem common to the population with which they are working, evaluate K-B-S, provide an appropriate intervention, and re-evaluate the K-B-S. This strategy has resulted in the students recognizing the impact of the care provided and the significance of the Omaha System. She has continuously mentored new faculty in understanding and utilizing the Omaha System in the community and public health setting. Daryl is recognized for her many years of teaching the Omaha System in the academic setting. She is an inspiration to both her peers and thousands of student nurses privileged to have had her as a preceptor.

An **Excellence in Research** award was presented to **Karen A. Monsen PhD, RN, FAMIA, FAAN,** Associate Professor, Director of the Center for Nursing Informatics and Director of the Omaha System Partnership, University of Minnesota School of Nursing, Minneapolis.

In 2010, Karen established a practice-based collaborative research network with colleagues and clinicians internationally: the Omaha System Partnership, a unique resource that enables practice agencies to share de-identified Omaha System data for purposes of scientific inquiry within a secure data shelter. As director Karen leads and provides mentoring for numerous multi-disciplinary and international research teams, often with student or community partners

as principal- or co-investigators. Karen willingly shares her expertise and insights that are critical for the success of new research teams that are leveraging the Omaha System for health care quality research and evaluation of population health outcomes. Recent research topics include opioid treatment, social determinants of health, strengths-based care, and analysis of social media data. The exponential growth of Omaha System scholarship over the past decade has been attributed to the work Karen has led at the University of Minnesota. Karen is recognized as an exemplar for collaborative community research using a standardized terminology through the methods and metrics she has developed with the Omaha System Partnership.

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 2021 awards.