STATE OF NURSING COMING OFF EPIC YEAR

Executive Chief Nursing Officer Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, recounted an epic year for Vanderbilt Nursing and looked ahead to a bright future in her 2018 State of Nursing address on May 22.

In just the last 12 months, Vanderbilt University Medical Center celebrated its third Magnet designation, installed new Epic clinical systems and completed a successful weeklong visit from The Joint Commission.

“We have had some amazing accomplishments this year,” Dubree said, recounting them in front of a full audience in Light Hall.

Throughout it all, VUMC was undergirded by its Strategic Compass — Design for Patients and Families; Discover, Learn and Share; Make Diversity and Inclusion Intentional; and Amplify Innovation. “In 2018, the organization will build on that with a revised strategic plan for nursing, which will be reviewed in groups and conversations starting soon,” Dubree said.

It was those strategic directions that guided Vanderbilt to receive its third Magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) last July. The ANCC’s Magnet designation is the highest honor an organization can receive for the provision of nursing care and inter-professional collaboration. Only 475 U.S. hospitals — 7 percent of such facilities nationwide — have the distinction, and Vanderbilt has previously received it in 2006 and 2012. No other health system in

May is one of my favorite months at Vanderbilt. We celebrate Nurses Week, review the State of Nursing and honor our remarkable nurses at our annual awards ceremony and reception. It’s important to look back on the past year and celebrate our accomplishments while looking forward to the next year.

And what a year we had. Last July, we received our third Magnet designation. In November, we switched to Epic clinical systems, an enormous task that we continue to refine today for the benefit of our patients and families. And just last month, we had a very successful weeklong visit from The Joint Commission.

My heartfelt thanks go to each and every one of you for all of these accomplishments.

Enjoy this issue,
Middle Tennessee has achieved Magnet designation.

“We are well on our way now for our fourth designation, and we look forward to that journey,” Dubree said.

Amid the work to demonstrate VUMC’s Magnet status, the organization switched to Epic clinical systems on Nov. 2, 2017. However, it was much more than a one-day operation. “It represented months of planning, training, testing and evaluation,” Dubree said, and work continues to optimize the system for staff and patients and families.

That work did not go unnoticed when The Joint Commission came for its triennial visit during the week of May 14. “The surveyors said they were so impressed with how quickly we had adapted to the new system,” she said. “It has a lot to do with the environment and the culture that we have engendered here at Vanderbilt. And I appreciate that so much because I know the results and the outcomes that it produces for our patients and their families.”

Over the last year, VUMC has made continuing strides in patient safety, nurse retention and physical growth, Dubree said. Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital (VUAH) went more than 3,692 patient days without a fall across five units. The Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt went 618 days without a catheter-associated urinary tract infection. Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital went more than 797 days since the last fall with harm. And the clinics had 91,564 preventative screenings and vaccinations.

VUMC has improved nurse retention rates from 79.5 percent in July 2017 to 83.4 percent as of April 2018. This is the result of numerous initiatives, including improved nurse recruitment, increased nurse residency positions, adding more start dates, improving the job transfer process and requesting a two-year commitment from residents. In addition, loan forgiveness, targeted scholarships and retention bonuses are being offered in critical areas.

Growth is a watchword throughout the Vanderbilt Health enterprise, with multiple new walk-in clinics being built or planned, 14 new Vanderbilt clinics at Walgreens locations and a new health and wellness center for Metro Nashville Public Schools. In addition, the main VUMC campus is buzzing with new floors being added to Children’s Hospital, new beds for VUAH in Medical Center East and additional beds at Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital.

Throughout it all, Vanderbilt continues to dominate in market perception in Middle Tennessee, and nursing remains the most trusted profession nationwide, as it has been for 16 years of Gallup Polls.

“I am so proud of what our nurses do every day,” Dubree said. “It is my honor to stand with you and try to be better every day. Thank you so very much.”
2018 NURSING HONORS

Rosamond Gabrielson Staff Nurse of the Year
Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital
Casey Mueller, BSN, RN4 CC, RSL, CCRN, Neuro ICU

Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt
Kayln Wolfe, BSN, RN 2, CC, RSL, Periop HR/PACU

Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital
Leslie Raggio, BSN, RN 2, CMHN, Psychiatry Adult 1

Vanderbilt Clinics
Lesa Abney, BSN, RN 2 BC, CTTS, Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist, Vital Health Services Research - General Internal Medicine

Rebecca Clark Culpepper Education & Mentorship
Gwen Holder, MSN, RN, CIN, Director, Systems Support Services, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Research and Evidence-Based Practice
Elizabeth Card, MSN, RN, APRN, FNP-BC, CPAN, CCRP, Nursing Research Consultant, Evidence-Based Practice and Nursing Research

Adrienne Ames Transformational Leadership
Pam Jones, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, Senior Associate Dean of Clinical and Community Partnerships, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing
2018 NURSING HONORS

Children’s Hospital “Spirit of Nursing” Contest
Christy Richardson, RN 2, CC, BSN, PICU Registered Nurse

Jerita Payne Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year
Kelly Davis, MSN, CPNP-PC/AC, Nurse Practitioner Lead, Pediatric Critical Care, Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt

Nursing Professional Development
Jenny Cotton, MSN, PNP-PC, RN-BC, RNC-NIC, Nursing Education Specialist, Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt

Friend of Nursing
Greg Jarrett, Endoscopy Tech Specialist, Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt

Licensed Practical Nurse of the Year
Cindy Lovell, LPN, Vanderbilt Diabetes and Obesity Clinical Trials Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Team Award
Center for Women’s Health Clinic Drug Dependency Team
Olivia Neufelder, BSN, RN, never sought the spotlight that has been trained on her. But the story of her singing “Dancing in the Sky” to a dying patient in October 2017 went viral when the patient's friend posted it on the Internet, and garnered more than 50 million page views. The simple act of compassion got the attention of NBC’s Today show, which visited Neufelder and Vanderbilt University Medical Center for a story that aired on national television on May 2. The segment was part of a series of stories called “Thank a Nurse.”

Sheinelle Jones, the co-anchor of the Saturday edition of Today, spent two days with Neufelder on April 16 and April 18. The latter day held a surprise. Jones arrived with the musical duo Dani and Lizzy, who recorded “Dancing in the Sky.” This was the song that Neufelder sang in October to Margaret Smith, a dying patient, who had just learned she was not well enough to receive a liver transplant.

Her friend Crystal Roberts, who captured that moment on video, was on hand for the Today visit along with Smith’s daughter, Megan, to share the moment.

“Oh my gosh!” Neufelder exclaimed after being ushered into a conference room on the seventh floor of the Critical Care Tower where the surprise was assembled. “I don’t even know what to say.”

Dani and Lizzy Nelson, twin sisters from Vancouver, Canada, sang their song about what it’s like for a loved one to be in heaven, one that has touched so many through the video. Many in the room sang along as the song reached its chorus: “I hope you’re dancing in the sky/And I hope you’re singing in the angels’ choir/And I hope the angels know what they have/I bet it’s so nice up in heaven since you arrived.”

“We just want you to know that you’re appreciated,” Dani Nelson said to Neufelder. “It was amazing what you did.”

Executive Chief Nursing Officer Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, said Neufelder’s care reflects the kindness and compassion that Vanderbilt nurses provide every day, even when the cameras aren’t rolling.

“It was so touching to share the spirit of Vanderbilt Nursing with a national audience,” Dubree said. “Our nurses go above and beyond the call of duty daily for our patients and families.”