



# PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES AWARDS BANQUET AND CELEBRATION

*October 10, 2019*

# W E L C O M E

Tonight, we continue a tradition started in 2016 where many of the Texas Panhandle communities, healthcare and nursing organizations across the Texas Panhandle have come together to celebrate the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses! With the initial vision of a handful of nursing leaders, along with the generous support and hard work of many individuals and businesses, we are able to make tonight's celebration a continued reality. We have applauded the practice, caring, and compassion of nurses across the Texas Panhandle and celebrated our professions' successes through the years. You have nominated the best of the best, and tonight we are recognizing not only 25 great individuals, but also the Art and Science of Nursing as a profession. It is our mission to recognize Registered Nurses for their caring, compassionate service in the Texas Panhandle.

Tonight, we begin a new tradition with presentation of the Legacy Award. The Panhandle Great 25 (G25) Committee established the Legacy Award to

recognize extraordinary registered nurses who have made enduring and substantial contributions to the nursing profession in the Texas Panhandle. Legacy Award Honorees are known for their inspirational leadership and vision for the profession.

All profits from donations and sponsorships for the event is used to provide scholarships for RN students enrolled in various nursing programs. Whether they are just beginning or advancing their nursing careers, they will enhance patient care in their respective communities and advance the profession of nursing.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for celebrating our 4th annual Panhandle Great 25 Nurses tonight. And thank you for supporting the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses!

**Valerie Kiper, DNP, MSN, RN, NEA-BC**  
**Co-Chair-Panhandle Great 25 Nurses**

**Richard Pullen, EdD, MSN, RN,**  
**CMSRN, CNE-cl**  
**Co-Chair-Panhandle Great 25 Nurses**

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## 2019 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Valerie Kiper, DNP, MSN, RN,  
NEA-BC

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Darla Caldwell, BSN, RN, CPPS

Patricia Miranda, RN

Ruth Whitehead MSN, RN

Douglas Coffey, MSN, RN

Misti Moore, BSN, RN

Carolyn Witherspoon BSN, RN

# AGENDA

## ***4th Annual Panhandle Great 25 Nurses***

*Thursday, October 10, 2018*

*Polk Street United Methodist Church • Amarillo, TX*

**5:45 pm – 6:15 pm**

**Registration, Seating and Coffee Bar**

**6:15pm – 7:00pm**

- **Welcome**

Dr. Richard Pullen & Dr. Valerie Kiper  
Panhandle Great 25 Nurses, Co-Chairs

- **Invocation and Dinner**

Ruth Whitehead, RN  
Texas Nurses Association- District 2

**7:00pm – 8:30 pm**

**PROGRAM**

- **Opening Remarks**

Dr. Valerie Kiper  
Panhandle Great 25 Nurses, Co-Chair

- **Recognition of Scholarship Recipients**

Carolyn Witherspoon, RN  
Scholarship Committee Chair

- **Scholarship Recipients' Address**

Eloisa Tarango

- **Presentation of 2019 Panhandle Great 25 Nurses**

Dr. Holly Jeffries

- **Legacy Award**

Dr. Richard Pullen & Dr. Valerie Kiper

- **TNA Hall of Fame Award**

Ruth Whitehead, RN  
Texas Nurses Association – District 2

- **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Richard Pullen  
Panhandle Great 25 Nurses, Co-Chair



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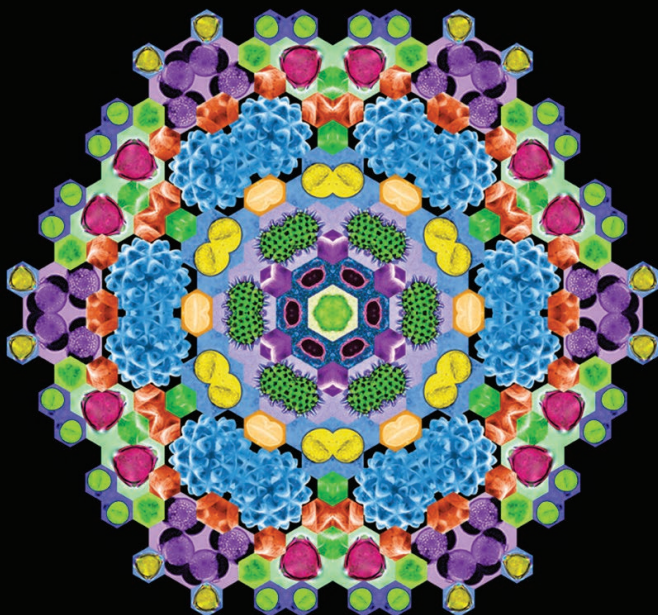


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Congratulations to these  
12 outstanding nurses. Winners of the  
**Panhandle Great  
25 Nurses Award.**

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*Allergen images provided by WTAMU Department of Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences*

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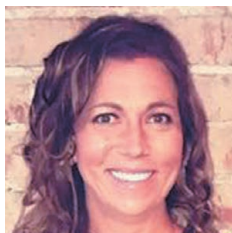
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## **PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES**

[www.ttuhsc.edu/nursing/](http://www.ttuhsc.edu/nursing/)



# PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES



**Michelle Adkins, RN**

*Full-time CCU Nurse in the ICU; cross-trained and do PRN in the ER and EP Lab – BSA Health System*

**Most proud:** I am most proud of the fact that I get to be a light in the life of those I come across. Being a nurse is so much more than most think, it's a calling. I'm very proud to have the RN after my name because it means that I have the ability to make a difference in someone's life each time that I check in for my shift.

**Zanne Baxter, RN MSCRN**

*Renal – BSA Health System*

**Most proud:** There is no one moment I can state as pride. I am proud to be a nurse everyday.



**Terri Bradford, BSN, RN**

*Psych, Occupational health, and public health – City of Amarillo  
Department of Public Health*

**Most proud:** I am most proud of the mentor ship I have provided to nursing students, medical students, and residents.

**Marietta Branson, DHSc, MSN, RNC**

*Nursing Education and Obstetrical Nursing – West Texas A&M University.*

**Most proud:** There are many moments in my nursing career that I am proud of, but none more humbling than the students that I have had to privilege to teach and learn from over the years. Impacting the lives of nurses by being part of their continued nursing education has influenced the profession of nursing in the panhandle communities where we live and work in providing quality, competent, and caring healthcare providers.



**Kim Broom, BSN, RN**

*ENDO/GI Nurse Manager – Amarillo VA Healthcare System*

**Most proud:** As of this May I have been practicing nursing for 30 years and experienced great difficulty summarizing what I am MOST proud of in my nursing career. One of my proudest moments was seeing my Daddy's blue eyes and gentle smile when he woke up s/p cardiac arrest secondary to bilateral Pulmonary Embolisms. Although we all know this was a power much greater than myself, I am so thankful for my nursing experience that enabled me to remain calm and know exactly what to do in his time of need and feel so blessed to have him here today as I receive this special honor.

# PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES



**Jan Cannon, MSN, RN**

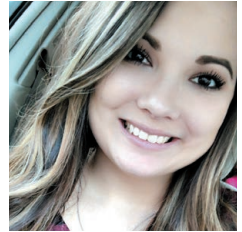
*Emergency Room – Amarillo College Associate Degree Nursing Program*

**Most proud:** I am honored and humbled to receive this recognition. I am blessed to have been influenced and mentored by the most incredible, professional, and compassionate nurses and nurse educators throughout my career. I am passionate about providing quality education to the next generation of nurses.

**Chelsey Castillo, RN**

*Cardio-IMCU – BSA Hospital*

**Most proud:** I am most proud being a nurse, but not just a nurse, I am proud of being a teacher, advocate, friend, listener, healer, & so much more. It is such an honoring & respected career to have. I am truly grateful for this award. Thank you.



**Stephanie Chestnut, BSN, RN, CCRN**

*Surgical Intensive Care Unit – BSA Health System*

**Most proud:** I am extremely proud to be a nurse. If I can make a difficult time in someone's life more bearable by the care I give, then I know I'm doing my job. I am proud to be able to take patients and families from their lowest and sickest points, to watching them leave our ICU. I am honored and thankful to be a part of this profession.

**Melinda Conway, BSN, RN**

*Regulatory Compliance Manager/Education Coordinator –BSA Health System*

**Most proud:** Continuing to believe and embrace that the human body requires more than modern medicine to heal. Healing comes from the kind gestures, actions and words a nurse and care team bestow on the patient and family every day.



**Traci Doss, RN**

*Orthopedic Neurology – BSA Health System*

**Most proud:** In my nursing career, I am most proud of being an advocate for the geriatric population.



**Jessica Hawley, RN, ADN**

*Labor and Delivery – BSA Health System*

**Most proud:** I am proud to say I just celebrated my 20th anniversary of my nursing career! I started at BSA as a Registered nurse in the Resource pool on my 21st birthday and moved to Labor and Delivery 8 months later; over the past 19 years, I have had the honor of helping well over 1500 women give birth to little miracles.

**Leandra Henthorn, BSN, RN**

*Orthopedics and Neurology Shift Supervisor – BSA Health System*

**Most proud:** I am proud to be a leader for my team on Ortho/Neuro where we strive to provide the best care to our patients through nursing experience and compassion.



**Shelby Hill, BSN, RN**

*Orthopedics and Neurology – BSA Health System*

**Most proud:** I am most proud of my overall growth as a nurse in this past year. I have grown emotionally, spiritually and as a leader in my organization.

**Lindsey Kinard, BSN, RN**

*Risk Management – BSA Health System*

**Most proud:** I am most proud of the impact that we have on patients' lives; being involved in patient safety I am able to provide a listening ear for many of our patients and their families. I am then privileged to be a part of the process change that will enhance the quality of care we provide moving forward to all our patients. It is rewarding and I know we are improving healthcare for our patients!



**Jaimee Lovelady, APRN, FNP-C, MSN**

*Surgery – Amarillo VA Healthcare System*

**Most proud:** Having the honor of caring for our Nation's Veterans over the last 20+ years.

# PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES



**Steve Marshall, RN, B.S., CFRN, NREMT-P**

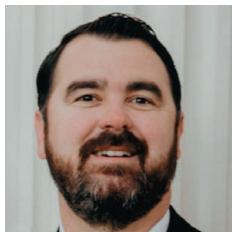
*Critical Care Flight Nurse/Clinical Educator – LIFESTAR Critical Care Transport – Med-Trans Air Medical Transport*

**Most proud:** I think the thing I am most proud of in my career as a Flight Nurse is the opportunity I've had over the many years to work with, teach with, be mentored by, and learn from, some of the most talented clinicians, educators, and administrators in our industry; to those individuals, I am indebted.

**Jamie Martin, BSN, RN**

*Critical Access hospital – Coon Memorial Hospital in Dalhart, TX*

**Most proud:** In my nursing career of the affect that myself, and all the wonderful healthcare workers I have worked with, have made on the lives of countless patients, their families and the people in our community. We have a great responsibility to be there for people in the best and worst times of their lives. It is a great honor to do that



**Ryan Roberson, BSN, RN, CCRN**

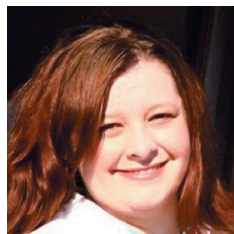
*Charge Nurse Medical Intensive Care – Northwest Texas Healthcare System*

**Most proud:** Being nominated for this award is definitely something that I am proud of. However, it gives me great satisfaction to know that I daily have the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives as a member of the Adult Critical Care team at Northwest Texas Hospital.

**Leisa Robinson, RN**

*Orthopedics and Neurology – BSA Health System*

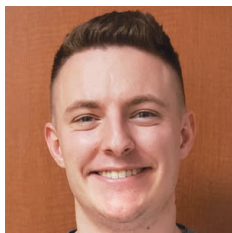
**Most proud:** I am most proud of my team. They have the best teamwork.



**Yolaine Robinson, RN**

*Geriatrics – Amarillo VA Healthcare System*

**Most proud:** I am most proud of being able to relate to my patients on their level. The ability to put myself in their situation makes me a better nurse.



**Aaron Rowe, BSN, RN, ATCN**

*ICU/Critical Care – BSA Healthcare Systems*

**Most proud:** When people are not doing or feeling well, they are at their most vulnerable and that is when they need help the most. I am glad I can be there.

**Natalie Schettino, RN, RN-BC**

*Family Practice/Renal Floor – BSA Health System*

**Most proud:** It is hard to pinpoint one thing that I am proud of that I do in my role as a nurse. I get a lot of gratification just knowing that I have served as a role model to other nurses and they achieve success. I also get gratification from knowing I made a positive difference in the care my patients receive. I feel truly blessed.



**Kathy Shipp, MSN, FNP, RN**

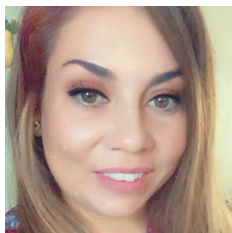
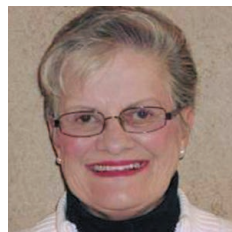
*Academia, FNP Education Family Planning Clinic – WTAMU, Department of Nursing, Faculty FNP Program; President, Texas Board of Nursing, APRN Representative, term expires 2023*

**Most proud:** Assisting nursing students into becoming the best safe nurses they can be has been the highlight of my career. Protecting the public through producing quality skilled nurses and now participating on the state and national level in regulating nursing education and the practice of nursing has broadened my connection to patients. In my actual area of nursing practice my love has been caring for women, helping them to better care for themselves so they can care for their families and others.

**Rose Ann Smith, MSN, BSN, RN, NPC (retired)**

*Retired after 45 years in Health Care. My practice area included treating medically underserved populations, i.e. Migrant Labor, Homeless. Also taught every level of nursing from Nursing Assistants to Nurse Practitioners. Last practice before retiring for the third time, was in Hospice Care.*

**Most proud:** That I was able to practice in such a wonderful profession that offers service to others. I consider this a sacred calling. My experience in practice is that I received more from my patients than I gave them and I am humbled by this experience.



**Cassandra Villa, BSN, RN**

*Med-Surg & PACU – Amarillo VA Healthcare System; PRN – BSA Health System*

**Most proud:** Of the fact that I AM a nurse. I have always wanted to be a nurse and I make a conscious decision daily to let God's light shine through me and positively affect my patients and coworkers.



# 2019 TNA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



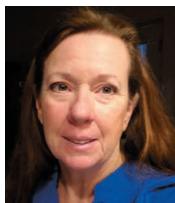
**Robin Birch**

*MSN –  
TTUHSC*



**Jasmine D'Nae  
Rodriguez**

*BSN –  
WTAMU*



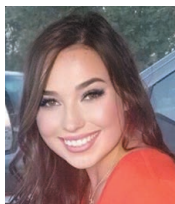
**Debby Hall**

*PhD –  
UT @ Tyler*



**Mary LeeAnn  
Spier**

*RN-BSN –  
UT @ Arlington*



**Kathryn Hibbert**

*2nd Degree – BSN  
TTUHSC*



**Eloisa Tarango**

*ADN –  
Amarillo College*

**Congratulations!**



# 2019 TNA HALL OF FAME



**Deanah Alexander, MSN, RN, CNS-BC**

Ms. Alexander exemplifies demonstrated excellence in professional nursing practice, patient and nursing advocacy, nursing academia, and robust leadership in psychiatric mental health nursing in the Texas Panhandle. She is a board certified clinical nurse specialist with prescriptive authority. She continues to advance nursing with commitment, involvement and remains at the forefront of improving healthcare.

## THE PANHANDLE G25 2019 LEGACY AWARD



**Marlene Hudgins, MSN, RN (retired)**

As an educator, administrator, humanitarian, and nurse at the patient's side, Ms. Hudgins has made a wonderful and enduring impact in the lives of those she has served. Ms. Hudgins said, "Being honored with the Legacy Award is one of my most treasured life moments. It is a reflection of my journey in nursing helping patients, students, colleagues, and those I have supervised. I am grateful."

# 2018, 2017 & 2016 HONOREES PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES



## 2018 Panhandle GREAT 25 Nurses:

**Melanie Allen, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Beth Attebury, BSN, RN, RNC-OB, MBA-HCA** -  
Childress Regional Medical Center  
**Tony Badillo, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Adonna Ballard, MSN, RN** – Region 16 – Educational  
Service Center  
**John Blakley, BSN, RN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System  
**Sis Bond, RN** – Amarillo Kindred Hospice  
**Christine Brewer, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Darla Caldwell, BSN, RN, CPPS** – BSA Health System  
**Abbie Cano, BSN, RN** – Borger Independent School  
District  
**Shirley Collins, BSN, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Lisa Formby, RN** – Hereford Independent School District  
**Machelle Funtek, RN, CCRN, CVN** – Northwest Texas  
Healthcare System/ Amarillo VA Health Care System  
**Jay Griggs, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Angie Hamilton, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Elizabeth Hammond, RN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System

**Carolyn Hudson, MSN, RN** – Northwest Texas  
Healthcare System  
**Verena Johnson, MSN, RN, CNE** – Amarillo College  
**Clint LaFever, BSN, RN, MHA** – Northwest Texas  
Healthcare System  
**Dustin Lambert, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, VA-BC** – Amarillo  
VA Health Care System  
**Yessenia Longoria, MSN, RN, CMSRN, CCCTM** – Moore  
County Hospital District  
**Misti Moore, BSN, RN** – BSA Healthcare System  
**Melissa Peavey, RN** – Amarillo VA HealthCare System;  
Dalhart Outpatient Clinic  
**Teri Quattlebaum, BSN, RN** – Northwest Texas  
Healthcare System  
**Charlene Seale, DNP, RN, FNP-C, VA-BC** – Amarillo VA  
Health Care System  
**Susan Stach, BSN, RN** – Region 16 Educational Service  
Center  
**Jessica Welch, BSN, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Jan Whitehead, BSN, RN, MHA, EMT-B** – Amarillo  
Independent School District

## 2017 Panhandle GREAT 25 Nurses:

**Imagene Bradford, RN** – Retired  
**Robert Brown, RN** – Children's Home Healthcare  
**Belinda Gibson, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Michele Gorday, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Kylie Griffith, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Jesus Hernandez, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Teresa Herrera, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Brent Hickmott, RN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System  
**Mary Holcomb, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Kristina Hudson, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Jana Kidd, RN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System  
**Marilyn May, RN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System  
**Lisa Miller, RN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System

**Melissa Miller, RN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System  
**Jennifer Moore, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Farley Naples, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Becky O'Neal, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Louise Osteen, RN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System  
**Crystal Ramos, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Glenda Sappington, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare  
System  
**Candice Smith, RN** – Hereford Regional Medical Center  
**Leanna Tijerina, RN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System  
**Lisa Touma, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Michelle Wells, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**David Williams, RN** – BSA Health System

## 2016 Panhandle GREAT 25 Nurses:

**Kristi Baca, RN** – Coon Memorial Hospital  
**Susan Cooper Bailey, RN/House Supervisor** – Northwest  
Texas Healthcare System  
**Leslie Collier, RN/Clinical Educator** – Children's Home  
Health  
**Danielle Contreras, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Bettie Lou Burk Crouch, RN** – Hemphill County Hospital  
**Danneva Eddleman, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare  
System  
**Deloris Elibee, RN/Case Management and Utilization  
Review** – Moore County Hospital  
**Kelly Galloway, RN/Chief Operating Officer** – Coon  
Memorial Hospital  
**Nancy Patricia Griego, RN/Nursing Director** – Hereford  
Rural Clinic  
**Christopher Heath, RN** – Neighbors Emergency Center  
**Betty Henry, RN** – Professor (Retired) – WTAMU  
**Terrah Jamandron, RN** – Neighbors Emergency Center  
**Suzanna Jarrell, RN/Assistant Chief Nursing Officer** –  
Ochiltree General Hospital

**Meri Killingsworth, RN/Chief Operating Officer** –  
Hereford Regional Medical Center  
**Dr. Valerie Kiper, RN/Assistant Professor** – School of  
Nursing, Texas Tech Health Science Center  
**Lesley Pierce, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Laura Reyher, RN** – Instructor – WTAMU  
**Kimberly Riddlespurger, RN/Lead Nurse Navigator** –  
Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**John B. Sappington, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare  
System  
**Kate Schaefer, RN/Trauma Coordinator** – Childress  
Regional Medical Center  
**Norma Pina Smith, RN/Staff Development Specialist** –  
Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Bonnie Stull, RN** – Coon Memorial Hospital  
**Courtney Terrel, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare  
System  
**Nora Wells, RN** – Moore County Hospital  
**Carolyn Veteto, RN** – BSA Health System



Thank  
you



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CARE OF OUR  
SCHOLARS



# THANK YOU

DR. RICHARD PULLEN  
& MR. MARK ROWH



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Panhandle  
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On behalf of the 2019  
Panhandle Great 25 Nurse  
Planning Committee,  
we would like to say a big

**Thank You**

to

*Laura W. Bush*

INSTITUTE for WOMEN'S HEALTH  
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

&

*Teri  
Quattlebaum*

For your generous  
donation towards  
Panhandle Great 25 Nurse  
Scholarships

## POWERING OUR MEMBERS



### MEMBER SYSTEMS

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We are thankful to be such a vital  
part of the communities we serve  
and look forward to extending our  
services with the addition of the  
Family Care Clinic of Bushland –  
Spring 2019.*

 **Family Care Clinic**  
of PANHANDLE

 **Family Care Clinic**  
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If you are interested in becoming a member, please call:

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## Music Provided By Jennifer Akins, Pianist

Jennifer Akins has served as Music Director and Rehearsal and Audition Pianist for Amarillo Little Theatre for many years.

Jennifer is a graduate of WTAMU with a degree in Music Education. She also plays the piano at First Christian Church.

Having played the piano most of her life, Jennifer enjoys playing all genres of music, from Classical and jazz standards to current pop and rock as well as musical theater.

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## Video Production by Chase Brady

Chase is a Junior at West Texas A&M getting a degree in digital media. Chase filmed all interviews and created all the video content for the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses event. Chase is the WTTV Content Producer as well as a member of Maroon Productions. Chase specializes in video content, graphic animation and graphic design and hopes to get a job in the postproduction field after graduation.

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## Photographs by Emily Prisk Creative

To access photographs taken at the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses Event, please go to the gallery link:

**[emilyprisk.shootproof.com/gallery/great25nurses2019](http://emilyprisk.shootproof.com/gallery/great25nurses2019)**

Register on the mentioned website to receive an email when the photos are ready. (*Photos should be ready by the 17th.*)





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Marietta Branson - DHSc, MSN, RNC

Kathy Shipp - MSN, FNP, RN

Rose Ann Smith - MSN, BSN, RN, NPC

Special thanks to Chase Brady, WTAMU student seeking  
a B.S. in digital media for producing tonight's videos.

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