



# **PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES**

## **AWARDS BANQUET AND CELEBRATION**

*November 3, 2022*

# WELCOME

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 6th annual 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. Tonight, we celebrate and honor not only great nurses, but also the Art and Science of Nursing as a profession. The event coordinators set forth to create scholarships so that our own Panhandle nurses could enhance their education to better meet the healthcare needs of their communities. It is our mission to recognize Registered Nurses for their caring, compassionate service in the Texas Panhandle. Nurses have had a powerful frontline presence for many years demonstrating a high degree of critical thinking skills and sound decision-making as they care for their patients in multiple healthcare

settings and communities. Four million and growing strong, nurses represent the backbone, brain, heart and soul of the healthcare system and continue to be the most trusted profession. **NURSES drive Healthcare.**

All profits from donations and sponsorships for the event is used to provide scholarships for RN students enrolled in various nursing programs. This year we are happy to announce we have added a new scholarship category of LVN to RN. Whether just beginning or advancing their nursing careers, the awardees will enhance patient care in their respective communities and advance the profession of nursing.

Thank you for being here to celebrate these phenomenal nurses. Thank you for celebrating our 6th annual Panhandle Great 25 Nurses tonight. And thank you for supporting the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses!

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

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

# AGENDA

*6th Annual Panhandle Great 25 Nurses*

*Thursday, November 3, 2022*

*The Embassy Suites*

*Amarillo, Texas*

**5:30 – 6:00 pm**

**Registration and Seating**

**6:00 pm -6:30 pm**

• **Invocation and Dinner**

Ms. Sharol Finley, RN

Texas Nurses Association - District 2

**6:30pm – 8:30 pm**

**PROGRAM**

• **Welcome/Opening Remarks**

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

• **Legacy Award**

Dr. Richard Pullen/Dr. Valerie Kiper

• **TNA Hall of Fame Award**

Ms. Ruth Whitehead, RN

Texas Nurses Association- District 2

• **Recognition of 2022 Scholarship Recipients**

Ms. Ali Allison & Ms. Carolyn Witherspoon, RN  
Scholarship Committee Chair

• **Scholarship Recipients' Address**

Scholarship Recipient

• **Presentation of 2022 Panhandle Great 25 Nurses**

Ms. Ali Allison

• **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Richard Pullen/ Dr. Valerie Kiper

## 2022 PANHANDLE GREAT 25 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Co-Chairs:

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

Dr. Richard Pullen, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE, CNE-cl, CMSRN, ANEF, FAAN

Carolyn Hudson, MSN, RN - NWTHS

Dedric Brockman, RN, BSN - NWTHS

Misti Moore, RN BSN - BSA

Stephanie Loya, CHES, CHWI - Panhandle AHEC

Carolyn Witherspoon, BSN, RN -

Coaliton of Health Services

Shirley Collins, RN, BSN - BSA

Sharol Finley, MSN, RN, NPd-BC - NWTHS

Andrea Kirkpatrick, RN BSN - NWTHS/VA

Angela Phillips, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CNN - WTAMU

Dena J. Shapley, MSN, RN NE-BC - BSA

Laura Reyher, MSN, RN - WTAMU

Treiva Daniels, MSN, RN - AC

Ruth Whitehead, MSN, RN - AC

Lisa Miller, BSN, RN - VA

Sharla Valdez, BSN, RN - Valmed Pharmacy

Tammy Farris, BSN, RN - BSA

Emma Kate Farris, BSN, RN - NWTHS

Erika Soria, RN, BSN, CCRN - NWTHS

## IN MEMORIAM



**ROSE ANN SMITH, RN**  
2019 PANHANDLE GREAT 25  
NURSE HONOREE

**THANK YOU**  
to the community for  
your continued support  
of the Panhandle  
Great 25 Nurses event.



# Great Nurses Choose BSA



Congratulations for  
being named among the  
**2022 Panhandle  
Great 25 Nurses!**



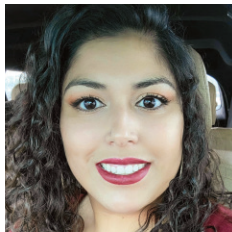
# PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES

# G25



**Suzanne Anderson, RN**  
*Northwest Texas Healthcare System-Charge Nurse – 32 years*

Receiving this award makes me feel very proud, grateful, but most of all honored. We have a very thankless job, but we don't do it for that. For the community and coworkers to acknowledge individuals is so special. I will be forever grateful and humbled by being chosen for such an honor.



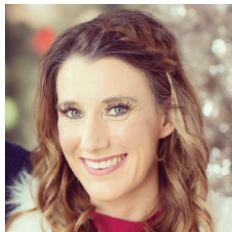
**Mayra Barber, RN**  
*City of Amarillo Public Health Department Public Health Nurse – 13 years*

I am honored to be recognized. I've strived to make an impact in this world and being able to care for individual patients and our community has been a joy and privilege. I am thankful to God for giving me a heart for nursing and to my family for their support.



**Rhonda Billington, RN**  
*BSA Cath/EP Pre-Post Recovery PRN MICU – 20 years*

It is a true honor to get this award. I am so thankful to be doing what I love to do and working with such amazing people. My life has been touched by some of the best this profession has to offer. I am the nurse I am because of so many.



**Ashley Biskup, RN, BSN**  
*Emergency Room Travel nurse – 10 years*

I am SO honored and grateful to have been chosen for this prestigious award. So much of this profession relies on a team approach, and I have been fortunate over the years to be surrounded by some of the greatest teams. I could not be successful without the support of others.



**Julia Burkhard, RN, BSN**  
*BSA Nurse Manager & Adult Critical Care – 17 years*

It is hard for me to put into words what this award means to me. It is an honor to be recognized by my team and I am humbled to be the recipient.



**Alice Conner, RN**  
*BSA Pediatrics and Pediatric ICU – 18 years*

It is very special because it shows the hard work and dedication that I pour into my nursing career. I am thankful for the other nurses that have helped to groom me into the nurse that I am today, and plan to continue to pass on my compassion of nursing.



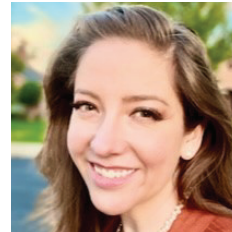
**Andrea DeLoach, MSN, RN, CEN, CPHQ**  
*Northwest Texas Healthcare System Freestanding ED Director – 13 years*

Sometimes it seems like the only person cheering you on is your Peloton instructor and then there are days like this. Being nominated by peers who know my successes as well as my faults, is an honor. I'm blessed to be surrounded by amazing nurse role models. Thank you.



**Aaron Gann, MSN, RN, CMSRN, CNE**  
*Amarillo College Vocational Nursing Program Director – 5 years*

I am very proud and honored to be recognized by my peers for my contributions to our noble profession. I share this award with the nurses who taught me what true caring and compassion are and how to live it every day with every patient and every student.



**Priscilla Gann, MPAS, BSN, RN, PA-C, CNOR, CNAMB, CCRN**  
*Thomas E. Creek Department of Veteran Affairs Clinical Nurse Educator – 7 years*

Nurses provide comfort, advocacy, and compassion during times of suffering. The pandemic redefined this sacrifice for our profession. My fellow frontline warriors, the nurses I've learned from, those I have taught, and the patients I have cared for are close to my heart while accepting this honor.



**Silvia Garbalena-Esparza, CNM, APRN, RNC-NIC**  
*Beyond Birth Midwifery and Birth Haven-Owner, Amarillo's Better Birth Initiative (ABBI)-Founder – 15 years*

Being nominated and winning the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses award means that I am making a difference in the community. And I am truly honored.



# PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES

# G25



**Ricardo Granados, RN, CEN, LP, NREMT-P**  
*Thomas E. Creek Department of Veteran Affairs and Hereford EMS-Emergency Room nurse – 10 years*

This recognition is very humbling and serves as an opportunity to thank all whom have influenced my career; especially my family, friends and colleagues for believing in me. It's also an appreciation of what I have and will continue to accomplish by doing my job without expectation of rewards or recognition.



**Jill Haynes, RN, BSN**  
*Northwest Texas Healthcare System Charge Nurse and Preceptor – 9.5 years*

I am very humbled and grateful, that I was nominated and awarded for such a prestigious honor, especially when I know the values in which this award represents. I am so thankful for my wonderful coworkers and healthcare friends, who truly inspire me every day!



**Allison Henry, RN, BSN, CIC**  
*Thomas E. Creek Department of Veteran Affairs Infection Preventionist – 20 years*

I am honored to be recognized as a Panhandle Great 25 Nurse. I'm grateful for the collaboration within our facility. I'm proud to be part of a wonderful healthcare community.



**Mary Irwin, BSN, RN**  
*Cook Children's Regional Specialty clinic – 39 years*

I'm humbled and honored to be recognized as one of the 25 Panhandle nurses this year. Many of the amazing people here tonight played an influential role in my career through their leadership and compassion in nursing. I'm blessed to have my family, friends, and coworkers here tonight for support.



**Holly Jeffreys, DNP APRN FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, CRHCP**  
*Department Head for Nursing for WTAMU as well as an administrator and family and psychiatric mental health care provider in rural health clinics in the Texas Panhandle. – RN 25 years and FNP for 20 years*

Being recognized as a Panhandle Great 25 is truly an honor. I have spent most of my life serving the people of the Texas Panhandle and while there is nothing I love more than serving, it is extremely encouraging to know that others appreciate your efforts.



**Polly Johnson, RN**  
*Family Medicine Center/Carexpress Canyon Nurse Manager – 27 years*

I have been in the medical field for 41 years. RN for 27 years. I have loved working as an RN in a small hospital, Large ER, Family Practice, Urgent Care and hospice. I am very humbled and honored to be receiving this award. It is the highlight of my career.



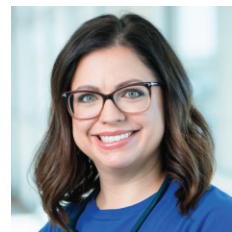
**Lexi McAnally, RN, BSN**  
*Hansford County Hospital Charge Nurse – 7 years*

This award is special to me because it gives me hope that I have put my best foot forward like I strive to every shift to take care of those in my community after all the years that they supported and watched me grow up my entire childhood.



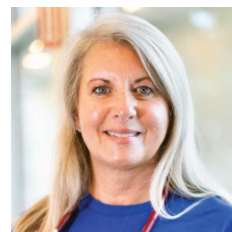
**Teresa McClain, RN, BSN, CPHRM, LNC-CSp, CP**  
*Northwest Texas Healthcare System Director of Risk Management and Facility Compliance and Privacy Officer – 28 years*

I dreamed of being a nurse since first grade but never of such an award. This is a testament to family, friends and colleagues encouraging me to pursue excellence and patient safety. I'm privileged to be recognized alongside my nursing peers and honored to be nominated by colleagues and mentors.



**Jamie Milton, BSN, RNC-NIC**  
*BSA Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Nurse Manager – 11 years*

I'm both honored and humbled to receive this recognition alongside such amazing nursing professionals.



**Teresa Moore, RN**  
*BSA Surgical ICU Shift Supervisor*

I am humbled to receive this award, there are so many deserving nurses in the panhandle and to be chosen as one means the world to me. I'm honored to do the job I do and care for patients, their families and my nurses, it's a blessing to work with amazing people!

# PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES



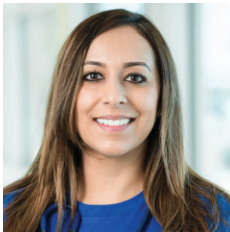
**Sheryl Mueller, MSN, MSEd, RN**  
*Amarillo College Professor and Associate Degree Nursing (ADN)  
Program Director (retired 2014) – 41 years*

It is an honor for me personally to receive this recognition! More importantly, it is an opportunity to celebrate the many great nurses who got their "start" at Amarillo College as well as to recognize the AC faculty, staff, and administrators who also helped prepare these great nurses for the Texas Panhandle.



**Ashley Paetzold, RN**  
*BSA Floor Nurse and Relief Charge Nurse – 5 years*

This award symbolizes validation, by being recognized by my colleagues as a pillar of compassion and quality care. In a world driven by monetary focus, I've always prided myself on choosing a path with a more meaningful method of gratification. This award is validation that I'm on just that path.



**Jacinda Perez, RN-BC**  
*BSA Resource Nurse – 16 years*

It is a huge honor for me to receive this award. Being a nurse is my passion and caring for others is so rewarding. I'm grateful that I work with a team of nurses that all deserve this award. Thank you!



**Hazel Plexico, RN – BC**  
*BSA Clinical Nurse Educator – 13 years*

I feel honored to be a recipient of this award, I enjoy going to work every day knowing that what I do impacts patients and makes a difference in their lives. Taking care of patients and helping them get better to be able to go home to their families is the greatest joy I could ever have.



**Melissa Smith, BSN, RN**  
*Amarillo Independent School District School Nurse/  
Immunization Coordinator at Heal the City – 17 years*

I am truly humbled and blessed to receive such an amazing award!!! I pray everyday that I will always be a light to the hurt, sick, and lost in this dark world. I am truly blessed and so excited to be part of Panhandle Great 25 Nurses.

## THE PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES LEGACY HONOREE



**Michael Evans, PhD,  
RN, NEA-BC, FAAN**

Dr. Michael Evans is an international leader in nursing and nursing education. Dr. Evans is

Dean and Grover E. Murray Professor at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing. He was previously the President and Chief Nursing Officer of Barnes-Jewish College and Founding Dean of the Goldfarb School of Nursing in St. Louis for 5 years. He was in hospital administration for 25 years before his career bridged to academic administration.

Dr. Evans was with Texas Health Resources for 12 years, first as Chief Nurse Officer of Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas and then as the system's first Chief Learning Officer. Prior to joining Texas Health Services in 1995, Dr. Evans was

Chief Nursing Officer at St. David's Health Care System in Austin, Texas for 7 years and Chief Nursing Officer at Northwest Texas Health Care System in Amarillo, Texas for 6 years. He helped to establish the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program in Amarillo, one of the first in the nation.

Dr. Evans served as President of the Texas Nurses Association and was on the board of directors of the American Nurses Association for 8 years, first as Chair of the Constituent Assembly, then as Secretary and then Treasurer. Dr. Evans completed two terms as President of the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the largest nurse credentialing organization in the world, providing individual credentialing in nursing specialty certifications and organizational credentialing through the Magnet Hospital Recognition Program and the Pathway to Excellence Program.

## TEXAS NURSES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME HONOREE



**SUE A. RANKIN,  
MSN, RN, CS, FNP**

Ms. Rankin began her nursing career over 30 years ago at our local university, West

Texas State. Of those 30 plus years she has been an advanced practice nurse for 25 years. She has dedicated her professional practice to children with a diagnosis of diabetes. She has made it

her professional focus to empower parents and other support systems in the child's life through education, compassion and selfless service. She has provided diabetes education to hundreds of professionals, paraprofessionals and lay persons throughout the Panhandle to improve her patients' health outcomes for today and in the future. She has exemplified the role of the professional nurse time and time again in her open and accepting manner of all she encounters.

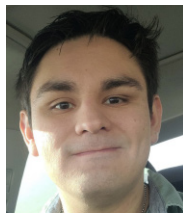
# 2022 PANHANDLE GREAT 25 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## LVN - RN



**Rylee McKay**  
Employed at BSA.  
Amarillo College

**Isaac Pacheco**  
Employed at Swisher  
Memorial Hospital.  
Amarillo College



## ADN



**Kyla Dodgin**  
Employed as a  
hairstylist and salon  
owner of 21 years.  
Amarillo College



**Samantha Irvin**  
Employed at Quail  
Creek Surgical Hospital.  
Amarillo College



**Ashley Palser**  
Employed at BSA.  
Amarillo College

## Traditional BSN



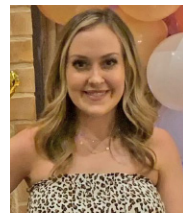
**Vanessa Bolz**  
Employed at Northwest  
Texas Healthcare System  
as a PCS/HUC in NICU.  
West Texas A&M  
University

**Alyssa Davis**  
Employed at Brasher  
Family Care Clinic.  
West Texas A&M  
University



# 2022 PANHANDLE GREAT 25 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## RN - BSN



**Tawney Palmer**  
Employed at Northwest  
Texas Hospital.  
University of Texas  
at Arlington

## BSN SECOND DEGREE

**Amanda Atchley**  
Employed at BSA.  
Texas Tech Health  
Science Center School  
of Nursing



## MSN



**Melissa Shanks**  
Employed at  
Amarillo College.  
West Texas A&M University



**Kiany Casillas**  
Employed at BSA.  
Texas Tech Health Science  
Center School of Nursing

## DOCTORAL

## THE DR. VALERIE KIPER DOCTORAL LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP



**Gloria Lewis**  
Owner of Faith  
Medical Clinic.  
Texas Tech Health  
Science Center School  
of Nursing



## 2021, 2019 & 2018 HONOREES PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES



### 2021 Panhandle GREAT 25 Nurses

**Jessica Albracht, CCRN BSN, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Eric Bose, BSN-CCRN, RRT-AACS ICU RN** – Department of Veterans Affairs  
**Sharon Brewer, MSN, RN, CNE** – Texas Tech University Health Science Center School of Nursing  
**Dana Brookwalter, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Devin Carpenter, RN** – Parmer Medical Center  
**Brenda Chandler, BSN, RN, CPHON** – Texas Tech University Health Science Center, NWTSHS  
**Ronda Crow, RN, BSN, MAM, CSCRN** – Moore County Hospital District  
**Treiva Daniels, MSN, RN** – Amarillo College  
**Kristin De Los Santos, BSN, RN** – Deaf Smith County Hospital District  
**Elizabeth Favela, BSN, RNC-NIC, CLC** – Coalition of Health Services  
**Brenda Graham, BSN, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Glenda Harris, MSN, RN, CNOR, CGRN** – BSA Health System  
**Hong Hong, RN** – BSA Health System

**Theresa King, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Cami Meason, BSN, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Patricia Miranda, BSN, RN** – Amarillo Independent School District  
**Jennifer Peters, BSN, RNC-OB** – BSA Health System  
**Angela Phillips, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CNN** – West Texas A&M University  
**Kiki Ralston, CNO, RN, CPhT, CST** – Coon Memorial Hospital  
**Amanda (Mandy) Richardson, SN, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Sandy Richardson, RNC BSN, certified in Neonatal ICN** – BSA Health System  
**John Schnatz, FNPC, MSN, BSN, ADN, CCRN** – Panhandle Surgical Group  
**Shelly Seth, DNP, MBA, FNP-BC, ACNP-BC, CCRNk, CNEcl, FCCS** – Texas Tech University  
**Erika Soria, RN, BSN, CCRN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Sally Swan, BSN, RN, EMT** – Spearman ISD and Hansford County EMS

### 2019 Panhandle GREAT 25 Nurses

**Michelle Adkins, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Zanne Baxter, RN, MSCRN** – BSA Health System  
**Terri Bradford, BSN, RN** – City of Amarillo Public Health  
**Dr. Marietta Branson, DHSc, MSN, RNC** – WTAMU School of Nursing (ret.)  
**Kim Broom, BSN, RN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System  
**Jan Cannon, MSN, RN** – Amarillo College  
**Chelsey Castillo, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Stephanie Chestnut, BSN, RN, CCRN** – BSA Health System  
**Melinda Conway, BSN, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Traci Doss, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Jessica Hawley, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Leandra Henthorn, BSN, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Shelby Hill, BSN, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Lindsey Kinard, BSN, RN** – BSA Health System

**Jaimee Lovelady, APRN, FNP-C, MSN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System  
**Steve Marshall, RN, BS., CFRN, NREMT-P** – LifeStar Air Ambulance  
**Jamie Martin, BSN, RN** – Coon Memorial Hospital, Dalhart, Texas  
**Ryan Roberson, BSN, RN, CCRN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Leisa Robinson, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Yolaine Robinson, RN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System  
**Aaron Rowe, BSN, RN, ATCN** – Travel Nursing  
**Natalie Schettino, RN, RN-BC** – BSA Health System  
**Kathy Shipp, MSN, FNP, RN** – WTAMU School of Nursing  
**Rose Ann Smith, MSN, BSN, RN, NPC** – WTAMU School Nursing & Hospice of the Southwest  
**Cassandra Villa, BSN, RN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System

### 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 Education Service Center  
**John Blakley, BSN, RN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System

**Sis Bond, RN** – 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

## 2018, 2017, 2016 HONOREES PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES



### 2018 Panhandle GREAT 25 Nurses cont.

**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 Health System  
**Melissa Peavey, RN** – Amarillo VA Health Care System  
**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 Education Service Center  
**Jessica Welch BSN, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Jean Whitehead, BSN, RN, MHA, EMT-B** – Amarillo Independent School District

### 2017 Panhandle GREAT 25 Nurses

**Imagene Bradford, RN** – Retired RN  
**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** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Leslie Collier, RN** – 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 Ellibee, RN** – Moore County Hospital  
**Kelly Galloway, RN** – Coon Memorial Hospital  
**Nancy Patricia Griego, RN** – Herford Rural Clinic  
**Christopher Heath, RN** – Neighbors Emergency Center  
**Betty Henry, RN (retired)** – West Texas A&M University  
**Terrah Jamandron, RN** – Neighbors Emergency Center  
**Suzanna Jarrell, RN** – Ochiltree General Hospital  
**Meri Killingsworth, RN** – Hereford Regional Medical Center

**Dr. Valerie Kiper, DNP, RN, NEA-BC** – Texas Tech Health Science Center School of Nursing  
**Lesley Pierce, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Laura Reyher, MSN, RN** – West Texas A&M University  
**Kimberly Riddlespurger, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**John B. Sappington, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Kate Schaefer, RN** – Childress Regional Medical Center  
**Norma Pina Smith, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Bonnie Stull, RN** – Coon Memorial Hospital  
**Courtney Terrel, RN** – Northwest Texas Healthcare System  
**Carolyn Veteto, RN** – BSA Health System  
**Nora Wells, RN** – Moore County Hospital

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*Dr. Richard Pullen &  
Mr. Mark Rowh*



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Texas Nurses Association  
District 2  
&  
Panhandle Organization  
of Nurse Executives  
(PONE)

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Panhandle Great 25 Nurse's Event and Scholarships

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# THANK YOU

## DR. RICHARD PULLEN & MR. MARK ROWH

~

## For Being a Hope Diamond Sponsor

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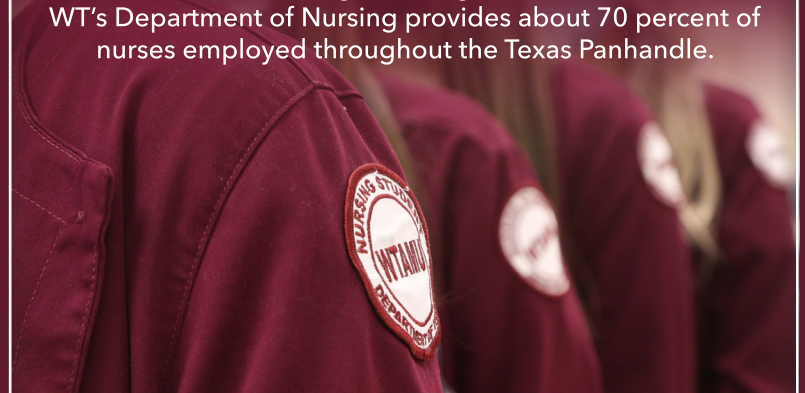
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**For Being a  
Hope Diamond  
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## The WT College of Nursing and Health Sciences congratulates our Panhandle Great 25 Nurses honorees:

Holly Jeffreys DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC  
Allison Henry BSN, RN  
Mary Irwin BSN, RN  
Teresa McClain BSN, RN  
Silvia Garbalena-Esparza CNM, APRN, MSN, RNC-NIC  
Jamie Milton BSN, RNC-NIC  
Lexi McAnally BSN, RN  
Melissa Smith BSN, RN

Established in 1972 and graduating its first students in 1974, WT's Department of Nursing provides about 70 percent of nurses employed throughout the Texas Panhandle.



**#10 TOP NURSING  
PROGRAMS IN TEXAS**  
NURSING JOURNAL



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[wtamu.edu/college-of-nursing](http://wtamu.edu/college-of-nursing)



# THANK YOU



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*Enriching Lives Through Christian Care*

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## **Texas Panhandle Coalition for Nursing**

TPCN is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit coalition that was established in 2004. Its membership consists of representatives from nursing academia and area nursing employers. The mission of the organization is to ensure we have an adequate supply of nurses to meet the demands of the Texas Panhandle area.

If you are interested in becoming a member,  
please call:

Carolyn Witherspoon at (806) 337-1700 ext. 203.

# THANK YOU

**MRS. CAROLYN  
WITHERSPOON**

~  
**For Being a  
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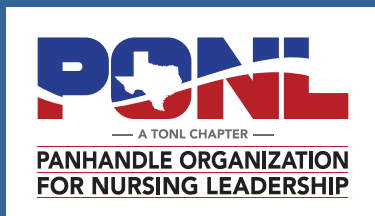
**CookChildren's.**  
**Congratulations**  
Mary Irwin, RN

We celebrate you  
for being one  
of the 25 Great  
Panhandle Nurses.



We've always known our nurses are great.  
Now everyone else does, too!

**THANK YOU**



~  
**For Being an  
Emerald Sponsor**

**AMARILLO COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM**  
**CONGRATULATES**

**THESE ALUMNI WHO WERE AMONG THOSE RECOGNIZED  
AS THIS YEAR'S PANHANDLE GREAT 25 NURSES**

Alice Conner	Hazel Plexico	Melissa Smith
Aaron Gann	Jacinda Perez	Rhonda Billington
Andrea DeLoach	Jill Haynes	Ricardo Granados
Ashley Biskup	Mayra Barber	

**PANHANDLE GREAT 25 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR 2022**

	<b>ADN PROGRAM</b>	
Ashley Palser	Kyla Dodgin	Rylee McKay
Isaac Pacheco	Melissa Shanks	Samantha Irvin

806.371.5000  
WWW.ACTX.EDU/NURSING



**GRAND CANYON  
UNIVERSITY**  
is a proud sponsor of  
**The Panhandle  
Great 25 Nurses**  
and would like to  
congratulate all  
nominees and winners.



## Coalition of Health Services, Inc.

**MISSION:** *"The Coalition of Health Services is a regional coalition of healthcare providers leveraging resources to provide high quality healthcare through program development, education and advocacy."*

301 S. Polk, Suite 740  
Amarillo, TX 79101  
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## YOU. US. TOGETHER. POWERING THROUGH.

Proudly supporting the annual Panhandle Great 25 Nurses celebration. Thank you to all the Registered Nurses for their caring, compassionate service in the communities where we live and work.



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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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Audio-Visual services provided by Digital-One Audio/Video and Rick Wilcox.

# DIGITAL-ONE

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# AUDIO/VIDEO

Nominator videos will be uploaded to the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses YouTube page two weeks after the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses Event.

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## Photographs by

Brooks Blissful  
Portraits

Photos from tonight's event will be available 7-10 days following the event. To access photographs taken at the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses Event, please go to:

<https://brooksblissfulportraits.mypixieset.com/clientgalleries/>

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## Special shout out to Makayla Barrientos

Makayla Barrientos, NWTMS Marketing Coordinator for providing individual photo shots of our Panhandle Great 25 honoree recipients.

**THANK YOU!!**





# Here, Nursing Is *More Than Just a Job...* **IT'S HOME.**

We proudly celebrate our dedicated nurses not only for the compassionate, comprehensive care they provide to our patients and their loved ones, but also for the passion for excellence they bring to our facilities, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Working alongside physicians, technicians and staff, they are at the core of our NWTSH family.

*Thanks to our nurses for all you do to make all of us, and our patients, feel at home.*



For language assistance, disability accommodations and the non-discrimination notice, visit our website. With limited exceptions, physicians are not employees or agents of this hospital.