

Legacy Award

Dr. Valerie Kiper Short Biography



The Legacy Award was created to honor a nurse who has made a sustained and substantial contribution to the discipline of nursing in the Texas Panhandle. The honoree is selected by the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses Committee, not by nomination. Dr. Valerie Kiper has established a career dedicated to service in the Texas Panhandle in the clinical practice and educational setting.

Dr. Kiper began her nursing career at the “Old” Northwest Texas Hospital on 6th Street in Amarillo in the NICU. She worked closely with two of her physician mentors, Dr. Naqvi and Dr. Habersang. Valerie told me, “Learned so much from these two wonderful physicians”. Valerie played major roles in establishing the leadership structure as a manager and director of the NiCU and eventually was appointed as CNO of the hospital in 1991. This was about the time that she and Jim were married. She eventually earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree in 2013 from TTUHSC. As A CNO, Valerie created new nursing roles in emergency care, case management, cardiology, indigent care, and centralizing nursing education in the healthcare system.

Valerie has served in many leadership roles in professional organizations including but not limited to Texas Organization of Nurse Executives (TONE). Valerie represented TONE on the Texas BON's Eligibility and Disciplinary Advisory Committee. She also serves on the Laura W. Bush Advisory Board and Power of the Purse Committee and the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee. She actively serves on "Go Red for Women" to support advancement in heart disease for women through the American Heart Association. Valerie actively serves as a role and mentor for nurses, nursing students, and students in the health occupations in high school. She has received many leadership awards, including being the Distinguished Alumni Award from TTUHSC. She is also Board Certified by the ANCC as a Nurse-Executive-Advanced. Valerie has the distinction of being appointed by Texas Governor, Rick Perry to the Texas Office of Developmental Disabilities for legislation and funding to support Texans with developmental disabilities and fetal alcohol syndrome. Valerie was recruited by Universal Health Services in 2005 to serve as Corporate Director of Accreditation Services. Valerie eventually returned to NWTHS as CNO and strengthened the relationships and collegiality within the hospital system and with the nursing program at Amarillo College, West Texas A&M University, and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

In 2015, Valerie was the Founder of the Panhandle Great 25 Nurses Committee. I remember when she asked me if I was interested in being a part of it. I replied, "Sure". Under her leadership, we have honored 125 nurses and awarded thousands of dollars of scholarships for nursing students. Thank you, Valerie for your vision to celebrate and advance the discipline of nursing. Thank you for asking me to be a part of it.

Valerie embarked in another journey as a full-time appointed associate professor in the RN to BSN Program at TTUHSC. Her students love her. A student stated, "I can tell Dr. Kiper really cares for her students", "Dr. Kiper is a tough grader, but she is kind and caring and I learned a lot from her"

Congratulations to Dr. Kiper. We are fortunate you are among us.