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**ARN Announces the 2016 Role Award Winners
at its Annual Educational Conference – REACH 2016**

Chicago (October 14, 2016): The Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) announced the recipients of the 2016 ARN Role Awards at REACH 2016, ARN's Annual Educational Conference, held September 28 - October 1 in Philadelphia, PA. ARN Role Awards are given for outstanding contributions in various aspects of rehabilitation nursing.



**Mary Elizabeth Dameron, MSN RN CRRN CBIS CCM
Case Manager Award**

The Case Manager Award recognizes a nurse who actively engages in the advancement of the case manager's role within the rehabilitation field.

Beth is an RN Case Manager with the Service Member Transitional Advanced Rehabilitation Program at McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, VA. Beth's nomination noted her collaborative approach to transitioning injured military personnel from the combat theater to community reintegration. This collaboration provides veterans and their families with the information and support they need as they begin to focus on community reentry.



**Patricia M. Lyons, RN CRRN
Educator Award**

The Educator Award recognizes a nurse who has contributed to the advancement of rehabilitation nursing care through an academic or educational role.

Pat is the Professional Development Coordinator and Nurse Educator at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston, MA. Pat was nominated for this award because of her ability to think about all aspects of the rehabilitation continuum and incorporate them into an educational curriculum with ease.



**Julia Libcke, RN CRRN
Nurse Executive Award**

The Nurse Executive Award recognizes a rehabilitation nurse who has contributed to the advancement of rehabilitation nursing care in a high-level administrative role.

Julia is the Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services with the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, and the Chief Nursing Officer and Consultant of Rehabilitation Services with Tenet Healthcare Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan in Detroit, MI. Julia was nominated for her transformational leadership that has created positive change within the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan. Julia has been known to say, “As a CNO I conceptualize a vision of what nursing can be; gather input and work with nurses at every level to develop a strategic roadmap of how we will get to our destination of true excellence.”



**Michael Hartge, MSN RN CRRN
Nurse Manager Award**

The Nurse Manager Award recognizes a nurse who has contributed to the advancement of rehabilitation nursing care in a middle management position.

Mike is the Nurse Manager of Operations at Carolinas Rehabilitation in Charlotte, NC. Mike was nominated for his close work with educators, administrative supervisors, WOCNs, and respiratory therapists to ensure those responsible in each area implement programs and initiatives, utilizing nursing teammates to assist them in providing excellent patient care.



**Debra Thomas, RN CRRN
Staff Nurse Award**

The Staff Nurse Award recognizes outstanding practice by a rehabilitation nurse in a direct patient care role.

Debra Thomas is a Staff Nurse IV at 3 Dodd, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus, OH. According to her colleagues, “Debbie invites a culture of learning and open communication. She never judges others for asking questions, and remains humble when answering questions. Debbie is always the first to suggest the teach-back or ‘learn by doing’ method to anyone who asks her a question. She is often heard saying, ‘Let’s find out together.’ Her kind spirit and humble nature encourage a positive work culture in which teamwork and kindness come first, as well as a culture where it is always safe to ask questions.”

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Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN)

ARN is a professional healthcare association dedicated to promoting and advancing professional rehabilitation nursing practice through education, advocacy, collaboration, and research to enhance the quality of life for those affected by disability and chronic illness. For more information about ARN, please visit www.rehabnurse.org or call 800.229.7530.