

EXEMPLARY PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Aspiring to provide the best possible care for patients is ingrained in our practice. This level of exemplary professional practice is evident with U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals for 2012-2013 ranking MUSC as a national leader in six specialties, high-performing in nine specialties, as well as being named the best hospital in South Carolina.

The origins of MUSC's College of Nursing can be traced all the way back to 1882 when the City Council of Charleston approved a request for \$2,000 to establish a "Training School for Nurses." Today, the forces of magnetism driving Exemplary Professional Practice are being led by Darcy Kalles, MSN, RN, Heart and Vascular Center Administrator, and Cameron Mitchum, MSN, RN, CCRN, Professional Development Specialist, as they guided the development of MUSC's Professional Practice Model of Care.

"My feeling is it will be a model that will be so strong and evocative in what it represents that it will become the voice of nursing at MUSC," Kalles said.

Kalles believes MUSC's nurses will continue to transform health care by addressing the physical, psychological, spiritual and emotional needs of patients and their families.

Conceptualizing a visual reminder and representation for what nurses consciously believe about their practice provides validation. Exemplary Professional Practice's working group identified key concepts that epitomize the extraordinary care being offered by eliciting feedback through the distribution of a qualitative REDCap survey, facilitating staff discussions and also by conducting focus groups. Some of the common themes emerging from the 287 responses include caring, compassion and advocacy. These critical components of care were incorporated into a design of a wrought iron gate symbolic of both our beloved city, as well as the art and science of nursing.

Objectives for this initiative are being met by:

1. Cultivating a brand through the establishment of the Professional Practice Model of Care.
2. Expanding on this concept by promoting an additional model based on nursing theories.

"We know we've captured what nurses here believe is the essence of what they want us to be known for, what they feel an exemplary model of nursing should encompass," Mitchum said.

