

St. Mary Medical Center

A Ministry of the
Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange

ST. JOSEPH
HEALTH SYSTEM

and the Brothers of St. John of God

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Mary nurses receive gold medals

APPLE VALLEY – Aug. 11, 2008 – St. Mary Medical Center is proud of its nurses, and there is no higher honor for a nurse at St. Mary than to receive one of the annual gold medals. Each year, five registered nurses receive the gold medals of a lifetime as the recipients of the Padmavati Paladugu Nursing Endowment Gold Medal Award. This award is a solid gold medal made by a jeweler personally selected by Dr. Rao Paladugu, chief pathologist at St. Mary. Dr. Paladugu established the nursing endowment with a \$50,000 donation to the St. Mary Hospital Foundation in honor of his wife after she passed away in 2002.

In conjunction with recognizing excellent nurses, the endowment also awards a minimum of six scholarships to nursing students each year.

Nurses at St. Mary are nominated by their peers and supervisors for the gold medals. The winners are then selected by a committee appointed by Dr. Paladugu. The committee's choices are based on criteria that include the nurses demonstrating high degrees of professionalism and excellence as well as personal and professional development, accountability, teamwork and commitment. Recipients are also expected to show exemplary interactions with patients and physicians. Lastly, they must demonstrate the Medical Center's core values of Dignity, Service, Excellence, Justice and Hospitality.

This year's gold medals went to Lilia Vazquez from the Critical Care Unit, Lilia Zec from Surgical Services, Tom Reed from the Emergency Department, Lisa Morrow from Labor and Delivery and Chongmin Martin from West Medical/Surgical unit.

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Established in 1956, St. Mary Medical Center is a 186-bed acute care facility celebrating more than 50 years of healing in the High Desert. St. Mary is home to the High Desert's only comprehensive cardiovascular surgery program. The Medical Center is fully accredited by The Joint Commission.