

ELNEC AWARD WINNERS, 2009-2010

ELNEC-CORE:

Diane Deese, BA, EMT
VITAS Innovative Hospice Care
Chicago, IL



Diane Deese is the Director of Community Affairs at VITAS Innovative Hospice Care. Working in the hospice industry for 17 years, Diane understands the role that all nurses can have in supporting patients nearing life's end and the importance of educating nurses so they can provide the care that patients and their families in communities of color deserve. In 2005, under Diane's direction, VITAS partnered with the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) to bring the ELNEC curriculum to their members. This successful training and overwhelming response led to the ELNEC curriculum being brought to the NBNA annual conferences by VITAS since 2007 to cities such as Houston, Atlanta, Las Vegas, and Toronto. To date, almost 350 NBNA members have received training in the ELNEC-Core curriculum. In 2010, Diane and the team of VITAS ELNEC-trained nurses, physicians, and chaplains plan to survey NBNA members trained in ELNEC, to assess the impact of the training they have received and how they are about to disseminate the curriculum to their nursing colleagues, as well as throughout their community.

"On behalf of VITAS, it is a great opportunity to bring the ELNEC curriculum to nurses around the country," states Diane. "With 17 years of working in the hospice industry, I recognize the role that all nurses can have in supporting patients nearing life's end. At the completion of the ELNEC training, nurses have a better understanding of how to take care of a patient at the end of their life, with less pain, more comfort and with dignity."

Madeline E. Lambrecht, EdD, RN, FT
University of Delaware
Newark, DE



The state of Delaware now has 227 brand new ELNEC trainers, primarily due to the vision and leadership of Dr. Madeline Lambrecht. Madeline is quick to say that she wants to share this honor with her many colleagues who assisted in disseminating ELNEC throughout Delaware. Madeline worked with others to develop and implement a plan to obtain funding, develop, and offer an online ELNEC Train-the-Trainer course to nurses and social workers in all eight hospitals and 34 long term care facilities in Delaware. The Delaware End-of-Life Coalition (DEOLC) received funding for both phases of the project from the Delaware Cancer Consortium. Participants watched the modules on DVD, participated in online discussions, completed quizzes online, and connected with other institutions via videoconferencing. The distance delivery made it possible to disseminate the course throughout the state without participants having to travel or request days off. Participants have told Madeline that they found the ELNEC training extremely helpful and are using the materials in their practice. DEOLC has a two year follow-up in place to check on goal attainment.

This entire project was accomplished during Madeline's term as President of the DEOLC. In addition, she integrated ELNEC content in many other initiatives – teaching an online death education course, co-teaching a Foundations in Thanatology course for the International Association of Death Education and Counseling, and most recently, her new work with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). Madeline is a member of the TAPS Speakers Bureau and has focused on suicide in the military by offering a webinar to mental health professionals at military facilities throughout the US. Her work for this year will continue to incorporate ELNEC content as she works with mental health professionals and others who help military survivors experiencing traumatic grief. Even though Madeline is on terminal sabbatical before official retirement in September, she has agreed to do another year as DEOLC President.

Jean W. Lange, PhD, RN
Fairfield University School of Nursing
Fairfield, CT



Dr. Jean W. Lange's passion for improving the care of older adults is evident in her visionary leadership in curricular innovation, her ability to engage faculty in collaborative, aging-focused research and the successful funding of programs designed to enhance providers' understanding about geriatric best practices and palliative care. She chaired the faculty team who leveraged a Hartford Foundation grant for curricular redesign into a network of collaborative scholarship related to end of life and spiritual care needs that resulted in an unprecedented level of funding, published papers and agency partnerships that brought national attention to the School. Measurable improvements in student attitudes and superior knowledge about the care of older adults on a nationally benchmarked exam demonstrated the effectiveness of the curricular innovations which were recognized in 2005 with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's (AACN) award for 'a model of gerontology curricular excellence'. Dr. Lange collaborated for several years with the Southwestern Area Agency on Aging and the Connecticut End of Life Care Consortium to produce programs targeting faculty and providers across disciplines and levels to enhance their knowledge about caring for older adults.

Jean and her colleagues' recent work to refine a knowledge assessment tool to measure outcomes from end of life care programming has been adopted for use by educators in hospitals, hospice centers, home care agencies and universities nationwide. In an ongoing, 6-year partnership with a community clinic and four home-health or long term care agencies, Dr. Lange and colleagues are currently working with staff to improve knowledge about cultural differences, palliative care and geriatric best practices to better address aging patients' needs, and to develop improved models of interdisciplinary teamwork. In 2006, she was appointed to the AACN's National Task Force to Revise Standards for Baccalaureate Nursing Education, on which she advocated for more comprehensive competencies to address the needs of older adults. Numerous grants, publications, consultations and presentations demonstrate the impact of her work which has received local, regional and national recognition.

ELNEC-CRITICAL CARE

Bonnie Freeman, RN, MSN, CHPN
Owensboro Medical Health System
Owensboro, KY



Bonnie Freeman has used the ELNEC-Critical Care curriculum in many creative ways in order to teach her colleagues about palliative care. She has provided courses, presenting one module/month, as well as doing 2-day courses. She has encouraged staff to pursue hospice/palliative care certification through the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses (NBCHPN®). Bonnie used ELNEC to help nurses prepare for the Certified Hospice Palliative Nurses (CHPN) certification examination, not only from her own institution, but also from other area hospitals and agencies in her community. In looking at ways to diminish barriers in providing palliative care education in the ICU/CCU setting and other clinical settings through the hospital, she was able to develop

her Master's degree thesis.

Bonnie believes that it is important for nurses to be fully educated in palliative care so that they can appropriately advocate for their patients. She has found that by educating staff with the ELNEC curriculum, they have been more empowered to talk with physicians about do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders, appropriate use/dosage of pain and delirium-control medications. In addition, Bonnie knows the importance in providing excellent emotional support for not only her patients and their families, but also for the staff. She strongly believes in the importance of "leading by example," and precepts and mentors those who are interested in learning more about palliative care. Recently, Bonnie wrote and had published, *Empty Hands*, a book which emphasizes the greatest gift that we can give to our patients—the gift of presence. She provides this book to all participants who attend ELNEC courses that she teaches. In order to continue to grow professionally and academically, Bonnie is pursuing an Adult Nurse Practitioner (ANP) degree from Vanderbilt University, specializing in palliative care. Her goal is to graduate in 2010 and to establish a free-standing hospice center.

ELNEC-PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE

Nathania Bush, MSN, APRN, BC & Teresa Howell, MSN, RN, CNE
Morehead State University
Morehead, KY



Nathania Bush



Teresa Howell

After attending a national ELNEC Graduate and Pediatric train-the-trainer courses, Morehead State University faculty, Nathania Bush and Teresa Howell, dreamed of initiating a bereavement camp for children in their local community. To actualize that dream, they formed a partnership with the local hospice and palliative care service. In the fall, 2007 they developed a new nursing course entitled *Service Learning: Camp Nursing*, which was offered to undergraduate nursing students for the first time in the Spring, 2008. The innovative new course involved students in research and evidenced based practice and provided a practicum in caring for children who had suffered a loss. It also enhanced access to child bereavement services in the region by providing a free health service in a convenient location where accessibility and affordability are barriers to health care. Students in the course developed age-specific projects to be used for children who would participate in the camp. The nursing students also visited school counselors in the eight county service region to identify children that would benefit from the camp. The course culminated with the camp experience in the summer providing a unique service learning opportunity to work with children and the bereavement process in the community setting through a collaborative partnership. The camp was funded by a grant, donations and adopt-a-camper.

In the summers of 2008 and 2009, Camp SMILE (**S**haring **M**emories in a **L**oving **E**nvironment) was held on the campus of Morehead State University with 53/52 campers, 17/28 nursing students, 4/4 hospice team members and several community volunteers, respectively. Nathania and Teresa presented their work at ELNEC's 50th Celebration in Chicago and received the Kentucky League for Nursing's Excellence in Nursing Education award. They also shared their work at the N-OADN National Convention in Orlando in November 2009.

ELNEC-GERIATRIC

Sandra Lourido, RN
Kennon S. Shea & Associates
El Cajon, CA



Sandra Lourido has used the tools and resources she needed to train geriatric caregivers to make dying with dignity and comfort a priority in their every day practice. Long Term Care (LTC) is about caring for people at the end of their life. Educating and empowering all staff, including dietary, maintenance, laundry, office workers and nurses to do this vital work is a priority for Sandra.

At Kennon S. Shea facilities, Sandra and her staff have tried to accomplish this by providing training for all shifts; by including this training at inter-facility bi-monthly or quarterly management meetings for all departments like Social Services, Activities Directors, Directors of Nurses, Directors of Staff Development, Central Supply, etc. An inter-facility palliative care program has been instituted to train facility champions, who developed and implemented their own best practices to meet their elder's individual needs. Sandra has also participated in training the community through the California Culture Change Coalition monthly meetings and has shared best practices.

“In order to effectively make a difference we must change attitudes and practices by affecting our organizations from the inside out,” states Sandra. “Management plays a key role in supporting this effort through education and mentoring of the front line staff that is closest to the elders we are responsible for caring for.”

ELNEC-INTERNATIONAL

John Lunn, RN, M.Div

**Global Mission – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
India and Liberia**



Reverend John Lunn is uniquely qualified to professionally meet not only patient's physical needs, but also their spiritual needs. Being a chaplain and a nurse, has allowed John to work in various distinctive settings. John is passionate about palliative care, especially in India and Liberia. In January, 2009, John organized and led the effort to provide two ELNEC trainings in India – one in the South and one in the North. John was able to secure funding from the International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC), ELNEC-International, City of Hope, and the Palliative Care Unit at Christian Medical College – Vellore, and St. Stephen's Hospital in Delhi, India. This initial ELNEC training was for 24 nurses in Vellore (South India) and 30 nurses in Delhi. Three physicians joined the team in the two trainings.

John orchestrated the faculty, including ELNEC-trained nurses (Barbara Head, PhD, RN and Susan Meskis, RN), two chaplains and a palliative care physician with a background in pediatrics. The ELNEC curriculum and resources offered the participants rich material for their own education and practice as well as providing them with materials for teaching. In the course of the three-day training, participants were involved in various types of learning experiences that provide a model for their future use of the training materials. A two-hour breakout session in pediatric and geriatric palliative nursing was provided so participants could obtain specific information in these two curricula. Participants included practicing palliative care nurses, nurses interested in palliative nursing, senior nursing staff, and masters-level nursing students who are the future nursing instructors in India. Students came from at least eight different States within India. In addition to his extensive work throughout India, John spends approximately two months a year at the Phebe and Curran Hospitals in Liberia.

Roger Strong, ACHPN, PhD, FPCN
San Diego Hospice
San Diego, CA



Dr. Roger Strong is a frequent traveler to Mexico, not for vacation and pleasure, but for teaching ELNEC. In 2009, Roger, Carol Long PhD, FPCN and Linda Long MSN, FNP facilitated the ELNEC content course in Mexico. David McGrew, MD offered an afternoon course specifically for physicians. In August, 2009, 325 nurses and physicians attended ELNEC training. In late October, the ELNEC Train-the-Trainer course was completed by 9 members of the Hospice of San Miguel, as well as 2 physicians from the General Hospital Dobarganes of San Miguel de Allende. These individuals have since facilitated the first two palliative care introductory workshops in December 2009, based on the ELNEC content for the General Hospitals of Irapuato, Guanajuato and at Hospital Dobarganes.

Hospice San Miguel has been in the forefront in implementing hospice services, as well as promoting end-of-life care training in Mexico. Due to recent legislation passed in Mexico, which promotes the use of advanced directives and palliative care, the innovative staff of Hospice San Miguel has committed to creating a new culture in healthcare in Mexico. As they are utilizing the ELNEC program to educate healthcare providers. It is projected that in 2010, there will be four ELNEC courses provided in Mexico by Hospice San Miguel covering 45% of the population. Under Roger's continuing leadership and vision, 12 more "Introduction to Palliative Care Workshops" will be held to benefit the medical communities of the States of Guanajuato, Queretaro and San Luis Potosi.

Sayaka Takenouchi, RN, BSN, MPH
Kyoto University
Kyoto, Japan



Sayaka Takenouchi was first introduced to the ELNEC curriculum in 2003 when she was being oriented as a staff nurse in a hospice in San Diego, CA. Two years later, she attended an ELNEC-Core train-the-trainer course in Long Beach, CA, with the purpose of becoming trained so she could return to her country, Japan, with educational tools to teach others about excellent palliative care. A year later, she returned to Japan and witnessed the suffering of many of her patients receiving futile care and often facing ethical dilemmas, as many patients autonomy was not respected. The research data Sayaka read, revealed that Japanese nurses had not received adequate education pertaining to end-of-life care in order to seek ethically sound care. She then came up with the idea to

utilize the ELNEC Modules to educate Japanese nurses.

However, in order to provide that education, she needed to do some major editing of the entire ELNEC curriculum so it would be more culturally-relevant. And then there was another barrier—the ELNEC curriculum needed to be translated from English to Japanese. By receiving funding from the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Scientific Research Fund, Sayaka organized an ELNEC-Japan project team and started translating the curriculum. Since 2008, Sayaka has worked closely with her team members, and has provided a pilot study and four national ELNEC-Japan train-the-trainer courses. The ELNEC-Japan curriculum and courses are acknowledged by the Japanese Society for Palliative Medicine and the last two courses were sponsored by the Society. Today, there are over 250 ELNEC trainers throughout Japan. The project team is now adding a module that is focusing on geriatric nursing.