MERCY COLLEAGUE AWARDED IOWA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Adrian Accurso, a Clinical Laboratory Science student at Mercy College of Health Sciences and a staff member at Mercy, has been awarded a $3,500 scholarship from the Iowa Hospital Education and Research Foundation (IHERF), supported by the Iowa Hospital Association (IHA).

In exchange for the financial support, Accurso has agreed to work one year in an Iowa hospital following graduation. He is originally from New York City. This ongoing scholarship arrangement is seen as a great way to help stabilize and enhance Iowa’s hospital workforce.

Hospital leaders from all parts of the state evaluated scholarship applications from dozens of qualified students who were judged on grade-point average, written personal statements, letters of reference and extracurricular, community and health care-related activities.

“We are proud to help these high-achieving students fulfill their career goals at Iowa hospitals,” said Kirk Norris, IHA president and CEO.

Accurso is among 33 outstanding students from all over Iowa who received assistance this year from the IHERF Health Care Careers Scholarship Program.

FAMILY APPRECIATES REMARKABLE MERCY EXPERIENCE

My dad has been in and out of the hospital several times over the past few years. I wanted to tell you about our experience on the 7th floor. It is one we will NEVER forget! There is a nurse on 7th floor who has gone above and beyond her duties and reached a level of not only patient care but patient family care that I have NEVER experienced. Her name is Gretchen Brown. She is kind, caring, friendly and helpful. If she said she was going to do something, she did it! She made sure my Dad was comfortable. She made sure my Mom and I were comfortable. She has the patience of a saint. I keep seeing the Mercy Experience T-shirts the staff wear. Nurse Gretchen Brown from the 7th floor IS WHAT THE MERCY EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE! So to Nurse Gretchen Brown, THANK YOU for all you have done for our family. Please know that the work you do is appreciated and you have made a huge impact on our family.

(This is an actual note from a family member. It has been edited for space purposes.)
MAY SPIRIT OF MERCY AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED!

Terry Simms, BS, MSW, LISW
Care Coordination

Terry Simms, the most recent monthly Spirit of Mercy Award recipient, is a social worker in the NICU and Maternity Treatment and Triage (MTT) departments, and has been a member of the Mercy Family for 26 years. In her current role, she serves as a support person and resource for patients and families who need information surrounding pregnancy and neonatal intensive care.

Living Mercy’s core values is important to Terry. “Hospitalization often brings the unknown,” she said. “We can help our patients’ stays be the best possible even during difficult situations.” Our daily actions create the Remarkable Mercy Experience, she added, as they “convey that we truly care about our patients’ quality of care.”

The people with whom Terry works – patients, families and fellow staff members – are what keep her job enjoyable and inspire her to Live Up whenever and however she can. Simply stated, Terry pointed out that Living Up is just consistently “doing the best you can!”

Outside of work, Terry has had quite a busy month, with family activities and the birth of her first grandson, Harrison!

HEALTHY LIVING CENTER OFFERS AWESOME FACILITIES

Do you know . . .

• Mercy staff can join the Healthy Living Center (HLC) in Clive for as little as $10.42 per month? And the whole family can join for as little as $33.42 per month?

• With this membership, Mercy staff can go to any YMCA in the area? You can also use the Mercy Wellness Center at central campus!

• Your membership fees can be payroll deducted at the beginning of each month?

To sign up, stop by the Healthy Living Center, 12493 University Ave. in Clive, and show your active Mercy ID to the staff – it’s that easy!

The Healthy Living Center offers access to state-of-the-art fitness and medical programming facilities, offering not only fitness equipment and instruction, but medical programming for disease-specific conditions. As a member, you can also take advantage of educational opportunities, fitness instruction, a healthy food court, child care and the support and friendship of others who are working toward their personal health goals.

Call the Healthy Living Center at (515) 226-9622 with questions or for program details, and read next week’s “Mercy News Briefs” for additional pricing and membership information.