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News Release

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Community Hospital Nurses Honored at Nightingale Event

Mesa County, CO - Community Hospital is proud to announce eleven local honorees of the Nightingale Award. Madi DeCarlo, RN, Tajmara Eaton, DNP, APRN, CPNP-AC/PC, Dana Garver, RN, Joe Gerardi, MHA, RN, Siera Hancock, RN, Avery Hill, RN, Daryl Linsao, MSN, RN, Deb Spomer, RN, Karen Tucker, RN, Audrey Kramer, ACNP-BC, and Mikala Trumbo, CNM were honored on April 11, 2026. Each of these nurses were nominated by their peers and leaders for the Nightingale Award.

Dana Garver, RN and Joe Gerardi, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Nursing Officer were selected as 2026 Luminary Award recipients for the western region in their respective categories. Both were selected out of 57 total nominees for the Nightingale Luminary Award for the Colorado Western Region. Dana and Joe, along with 10 other finalists from western Colorado will travel to Denver in May for the statewide Nightingale Luminary Awards Gala where 16 nurses will be selected for the prestigious *Colorado Nightingale Nurse of the Year Award*. The 2026 Nightingale awards recognize nurses in nine categories with additional subcategories including: Acute Care Clinical Practice, Clinical Advanced Practice RN, Long Term Care, Rehabilitation, Community Nursing, Nurse Led Teams, Nursing Administration, Research and Quality Improvement and Health Care Policy, Nursing Education and Excellence in Nursing Eminence Award. By structuring the program in this manner, many more nurses are being recognized for excellence in nursing in Colorado.

The Nightingale Award for Excellence in Human Caring was founded in 1985 to honor nurses who best exemplify the philosophy and practice of Florence Nightingale, a 19th century nursing pioneer who epitomized the art of caring. For over forty years, registered nurses throughout Colorado have been nominated by peers, supervisors, friends and family for this prestigious award. This regional event recognizes and honors western Colorado nominees and finalists.

“Our nurses work tirelessly each and every day to ensure the highest quality care possible for our patients,” said Chris Thomas, President and CEO for Community Hospital. “These remarkable nurses exemplify professional engagement and community involvement. We are extremely proud of their commitment to excellence in the profession of nursing,” added Thomas.

The Nightingale Award honors involvement in professional organizations, facilitating public education, working for advancement of the profession, and projects/activities which enhance the public image of the nursing profession. Congratulations to each of these individuals on their nomination and to Dana and Joe for being awarded this prestigious honor!

To learn more about the comprehensive health care services offered at Community Hospital, please visit YourCommunityHospital.com.

About Community Hospital: Community Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado, is a full-service, acute care hospital licensed for 60 beds. As part of the Colorado West Healthcare System, we are a Level III Trauma Center that offers full outpatient diagnostic services and inpatient care for the Western Slope region of Colorado and eastern Utah. Community Hospital brings together expert staff and world-class technology in a healing, family-centered environment.

**Great People.
Great Care.
Great Choice!**