

Ursuline nurse educator receives national award

By SALI McSHERRY

Kathy Rogers, of Pepper Pike, a nurse educator at the Breen School of Nursing at Ursuline College, has been honored for her leadership, interpersonal skills and efforts to educate students on stress reduction.

She was one of two people nationally to receive the Assessment Technologies Institute Nursing Education's first-ever Nurse's Touch Award.

Ursuline's nursing program will benefit from the new online curriculum, Nurse's Touch, for one class of students for one year. Nurse's Touch helps students develop the social and personal skills they will need to become successful nurses.

"I advise my students to understand the patient in order to be successful," said Ms. Rogers, who is coordinator of the college's nursing resource center. "That doesn't call on book knowledge in most cases. Instead, it's taking the clues and pieces of information and using soft skills to help meet the needs of the patient."

According to her peers' nomination for the award, "Ms. Rogers is deeply committed to providing students with the tools they need to become emotionally, intellectually and physically able to deal with the stresses they will inevitably encounter. She promotes 'soft skills' as she seeks and provides students with a variety of effective, interactive learning experiences which promote health, professional behavior and stress management in students."

"Nursing programs have limited time and resources, which means these skills are rarely a top priority in the classroom, said Sheryl Sommer, director of nursing education and curriculum at ATI Nursing Education. "Under her guidance, nursing students at Ursuline College are receiving exposure to abilities that will help them function as leaders of the health-care team and be a patient advocate," she said of Ms. Rogers.



Kathy Rogers was one of two people to receive the national Nurse's Touch Award.

"As dean, in just five short years, I've observed Ms. Rogers grow from a brand new instructor to a professional devoted to the current evidence and research that keeps our students moving forward to enjoy the excellent reputation of an Ursuline College nursing education," said Christine A. Wynd, dean of the nursing school.

Ms. Rogers started her career with another degree in health care and then became a licensed practical nurse in 1989. She also earned a master of science in nursing 2005. She has been at Ursuline College since 2006. For more than 20 years, she has specialized in hemodialysis, which involves caring for patients with kidney disease.

ATI Nursing Education is a learning program in nursing schools across the country, working with more than 20,000 nurse educators, 2,100 colleges and universities and more than 225,000 students.