UPMC Braddock honors ACES award recipients

The 2009 UPMC Braddock ACES include: (seated left to right) Donna Lockner and Linda Sherer; (standing left to right) Kathleen Merkel and Carol Miller.

Cynthia M. Dorundo, UPMC Braddock president, and the hospital's executive team honored four members of the hospital's staff who were selected as this year's recipients of UPMC's Award for Commitment and Excellence in Service (ACES). The four were honored at a recent luncheon program at the hospital and will join ACES award recipients from all of the hospitals and business units of UPMC at a gala awards banquet in November. They were nominated by their peers for demonstrating outstanding dedication in embodying the mission, vision, and values of UPMC.

This year's honorees are:

Donna Lockner, Surgical Services:

"Donna is a consistently excellent role model for all professional nurses. She is kind and professional with all of our patients, and exhibits the same attitudes toward our physicians and co-workers. One such example of her great caring came with a patient well into his 90's. When asked if anyone was with him, he replied, 'No girls, I don't have anyone," with a sad smile. Donna walked over to him and held his hand and told him, 'That's not true, you have us and I'll be waiting for you when you come out of surgery.' And Donna did take excellent care of him following his procedure. She sets every patient as her number one priority each and every day."

Kathleen Merkel, Emergency Department:

"Kathy always exemplifies caring professionalism in her patient care. That combines with a dedication and commitment to everyone in the Emergency Department. She constantly strives to improve the daily functions of the department resulting in enhanced care for our patients. She is one of the most dedicated and motivated employees that we have ever seen and had the privilege of working with. Kathy is the ultimate role model!"

Carol Miller, Administration:

"Carol approaches her work with outstanding commitment and devotion to patient care. Although no longer involved in doing 'hands-on' nursing, her leadership in finding solutions to improve patient care and to solve problems reflects her continuing devotion to the nursing profession. She truly leads by example, allowing staff to work to their fullest potential while providing gentle guidance to reach our goals. Her manner of professional conduct provides inspiration as a well-respected and experienced nurse as well as an innovative manager and creative thinker."

Linda Sherer, Medical Care Evaluation:

"Linda is truly an 'ACE player' who continues to dedicate her life to providing quality and outstanding care to her work, her co-workers, and, most importantly, her patients. Linda's role creates a bridge from administrative function to direct patient care, translating policies, procedures, and regulations into meaningful quality improvement in patient care for staff and physicians alike."

All of UPMC Braddock joins in congratulations these most deserving ACES Award recipients for embodying excellence in care and service to patients and their loved ones.