

May 9, 2022**News Release***Media Contact: Karen Martsolf, MA
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karen.martsolf@gjhosp.org***Community Hospital Nurses Honored at Nightingale Event**

Mesa County, CO - Community Hospital is proud to announce six local honorees of the Nightingale Award. Ashley Baesler, MHA, MPA, BSN, RN, Irene Samantha (Sam) Parkes, RN, Kristin Bentley, BSN, RN, Marsha Bagby, BSN, RN, Courtney Rudd, RN, BSN, OCN, and Michael Martin, RN, CFRN, TNCC were honored on April 23 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. Each of these nurses were nominated by their peers and leaders for the Nightingale Award.

Marsha Bagby and Kristin Bentley were selected as 2022 Luminary Award recipients for the western region. Both were selected out of 21 total nominees for the Colorado Western Region. Bagby and Bentley, along with 34 other finalists from Colorado will travel to Denver on August 13, 2022 for the statewide Nightingale Luminary Awards Gala where six nurses will be selected for the prestigious *Colorado Nightingale Nurse of the Year Award*. The program will recognize nurses in two categories: Nurses in Clinical Practice and Administrators, Educators, Researchers & Non-Traditional Practice Roles. Each category will be recognized in one of three areas: Advocacy, Leadership and Innovation. 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 nearly 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.

“A Nightingale recipient demonstrates excellence in the profession of nursing,” said Joe Gerardi, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Nursing Officer. “These individuals exemplify professional engagement and community involvement. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments,” added Gerardi.

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 Marsha and Kristin for being awarded this prestigious honor!

To learn more about the services offered at Community Hospital, please call 970-242-0920 or visit www.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.

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