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**Local Nursing Student Receives Scholarship**

Middletown- On April 27, 2006, Southern Connecticut State University nursing student and Middletown resident, Michelle Gaudreau received one of five *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* scholarships. The event was held at the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central CT's (VNA/SCC) One Long Wharf Drive office in New Haven.

Gaurdreau, a mother of 2 and a former insurance agency employee, decided to become a nurse after experiencing life altering events, the birth of her daughters and watching her grandfather lose his fight with cancer. Since that time she has pursued a career in nursing but is undecided which path she will follow, hospice care or labor and delivery. "Nursing excites and moves me," Gaurdreau states.

The *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* was created in 2001 to both celebrate and elevate the profession of nursing. The event has generated enough funds to offer financial support to nursing students. Joanne Walsh President and CEO of the VNA/SCC stated that, "Awarding scholarships to area nursing schools, will provide support and recognition to the future nurses." She added, "These students show great potential in becoming future nominees of the *Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing*." The other four $1,000 scholarship recipients are from Gateway Community College, Sacred Heart University, Yale University and Quinnipiac University.

Official sponsors of the Nightingale event include: Hospital of St. Raphael, Masonicare, Inc., VNA/SCC and Yale-New Haven Hospital. More information about the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing event is available online at www.nightingaleawardsct.org.

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Go to next press release

Return to News/Events page