



NRHA Rural Hospital CNO Certification Program

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Pilot cohort for NRHA Rural Hospital CNO Certification Program graduates

[Kansas City, Mo.] – The National Rural Health Association’s (NRHA) Rural Hospital CNO Certification Program has completed its first cohort, which started in April 2021.

Leadership makes the difference. Today’s rural hospitals and clinics face tremendous challenges and uncertainty and are closing at an unprecedented rate. One in every three rural hospitals has been identified as “at risk.” According to NRHA CEO Alan Morgan, “Leadership is the biggest predictor of rural hospital success.”

NRHA’s Rural Health Leadership Education Foundation exists to fund programs that nurture current and future leaders. The graduating pilot cohort consists of the following NRHA CNO-certified participants:

- Andrea Hagist - Mahaska Health, Oskaloosa, Iowa
- Candy Detchon - Mayer's Memorial Hospital District, Fall River Mills, Calif.
- Carrie Owens - Lincoln Health, Hugo, Colo.
- Christina Peterson - Iowa Specialty Hospitals & Clinics, Clarion, Iowa
- Clay Jordan - Tri Valley Health System, Cambridge, Neb.
- Jennifer Janssen - Cuero Regional Hospital, Cuero, Texas
- Jeremy Cannon - Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, Kalkaska, Mich.
- Judy Geiger - Columbia Memorial Hospital, Astoria, Ore.
- Jyme Kinnard - Ochiltree General Hospital, Perryton, Texas
- Kate Schaefer - Childress Regional Medical Center, Childress, Texas
- Katie Peterson - Pender Community Hospital, Pender, Neb.
- Kim Cicon - Penn Highlands Healthcare, DuBois, Penn.

- Kim Combs - Titusville Area Hospital, Titusville, Penn.
- Lakin Lyon - Smith County Memorial Hospital, Smith Center, Kan.
- Leslie Hackett - Covenant Hospital Plainview, Plainview, Texas
- Lori Forneris - Nursetribe, Holstein, Iowa
- Maegen Garner - Seminole Hospital District, Seminole, Texas
- Mandy Graves - Lynn County Hospital District, Tahoka, Texas
- Marlene Elliot - Coulee Medical Center, Grand Coulee, Wash.
- Megan Heath - Gordon Memorial Hospital, Gordon, Neb.
- Miranda Adams - Cuero Regional Hospital, Cuero, Texas
- Nicole Thorell - Lexington Regional Health Center, Lexington, Neb.
- Rachel Sem - Sakakewea Medical Center, Hazen, N.D.
- Roxanne Stelle - Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital, Lincoln, Ill.
- Shawn Nethery - Ward Memorial Hospital, Monahans, Texas
- Steve Olson - Carthage Area Hospital, Carthage, N.Y.
- SuLynn Mester - Childress Regional Medical Center, Childress, Texas

About NRHA's Rural Hospital CNO Certification Program: NRHA's Rural Hospital CNO Certification Program was developed by successful rural hospital CNOs for rural hospital CNOs to help them strengthen their leadership skills and lead their hospital to success. An individual with this certification will immediately be recognized as someone qualified to be a nurse leader in a rural hospital with excellence.

To see our pilot CNO cohort's graduation ceremony, click [here](#).

For more information about available programs, visit www.crhleadership.com.