Local Educator Wins Medical Hispana of the Year Award

The Hispanic Association of Women recently named Debra Flores a 2010 Hispana of the Year. The association recognizes five women each year in the following categories: education, medical, civic/church, business professional and youth. Flores was chosen for this year’s medical category.

Flores is a certified community health worker instructor with the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing’s Larry Combest Community Health and Wellness Center.

“We are truly proud of Debra and her contributions to the School of Nursing’s outreach activities,” said Christina Esperat, R.N., Ph.D., professor and associate dean of Clinical Services and Community Engagement and the CH Foundation Regents Professor in Rural Health Disparities at the Perry School of Nursing. “Her medical Hispana award recognizes her significant achievements particularly in increasing the cadre of certified community health workers in our service area.”

Award nominees are Hispanic women that have gone beyond the call of duty in their respective areas of expertise including their community volunteer activities and job responsibilities. Recipients are selected based on contributions and outstanding work that benefits the community relating to a specific category, community service and leadership skills, and whether they are positive role models for the community, focusing on Hispanic women and youth.

In 2009, Flores earned the Industry Sector Outreach Award from Work Force Solutions of the South Plains, and a Cultural Diversity Award from the Volunteer Center of Lubbock. She is currently working on a program to implement a Transformation for Health Model Program to improve health care outcomes for vulnerable individuals in Lubbock County. The program will utilize community health workers through a research project to investigate their perception of how the Transformation for Health process influences relationships with clients in chronic disease management.

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