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Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing Professor to Deliver Prestigious Talk at Nursing Summit in Philadelphia

Sharon Decker, RN, Ph.D., ACNS-BC, ANEF, Covenant Health System Endowed Chair in Simulation and Nursing Education, and director of clinical simulation at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing, will deliver the 2009 Debra L. Spunt Lecture at the National League for Nursing (NLN) Summit in Philadelphia. Decker will discuss the importance of debriefing in a lecture titled, "…Until We Reflect."

The Debra L. Spunt Lecture honors the lifelong contributions to excellence in nursing education, in particular leadership in the design, development and implementation of simulation in nursing education. In establishing the lectureship in 2007 with funding from Laerdal Medical Corporation, the NLN lauded the late Debra L. Spunt, D.N.P., M.S., R.N., as a symbol of leadership and inspiration.

Decker has taught at TTUHSC since 1984. Her research and scholarship is related to how simulation can be used as an innovative teaching-learning strategy to facilitate the development of critical thinking skills and promote clinical competency. She has presented her work at conferences and provided consultation to nursing schools throughout the United States related to the integration of simulation into the curriculum. She has been the recipient of numerous grants to support her research and has been recognized many times by TTUHSC for her excellence in teaching. She served as co-project director for a grant supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that established the West Texas Simulation Alliance.

Decker also has a wealth of experience related to projects involving multiple teams in varied disciplines. She has collaborated on numerous grant proposals related to simulation, including those at TTUHSC; which include projects funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration; the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; the CH Foundation; Laerdal Medical and the National League for Nursing.

Decker's published work includes articles in the Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing and the Journal of Nursing Education and chapter in the book; Simulation in Nursing Education from Conceptualization to Evaluation. Decker recently participated in
a multisite research project conducted at Indiana University, Florida International University, University of Pittsburg, and TTUHSC that developed and tested a cardiovascular assessment curriculum model for advanced practice nurses. She earned a bachelor's degree from Baylor University in Waco; an MSN from the University of Texas in Arlington; and a doctorate from Texas Women's University in Denton.

The National League for Nursing is the premier organization for nurse faculty and leaders in nursing education. The NLN offers faculty development, networking opportunities, testing services, nursing research grants and public policy initiatives to its 30,000 individual and 1,200 institutional members who represent all types of nursing education programs.