



## STC SPOTLIGHT

# Teacher of the Year

### Linda Hart, Health Science Instructor

Congratulations Linda Hart, Practical Nursing Instructor at Suncoast Technical College and winner of the 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year Award! Linda has taught in the Health Science field for seventeen years. She is a dedicated and experienced nurse and educator, holding two Master's Degrees. Creative and caring, Linda spends countless hours developing educational opportunities and resources for her students.

When asked about a 'memorable teaching moment', Linda recalled many rich examples of student success and accomplishments, grounded by her personal teaching philosophy of high expectations and care for each student. *"As a teacher, I know that student achievement does not occur in isolation. It is the result of a team approach for students and includes resources from student services, exceptional education liaisons, administration, paraprofessional support staff and other instructors. What makes a memorable experience in teaching is the result of hard work on the part of the student and the teacher."* Though Linda recalled many memorable moments, one in student in particular made an impact that she will never forget.

Linda's first encounter with the 'Power of Education' came to her in the form of a very special student who was labeled as mute and hearing impaired. *"I truly wondered how I was going to reach this student and provide an educational environment to meet their needs."* After consulting with the ESE liaison, she began planning specific strategies. She had also just completed work as a trainer for Kagan Cooperative Learning. The use of Kagan learning strategies facilitated social connections with other students in the classroom, and included teaching to different types of learning styles. Over the course of several months, the student blossomed and grew beyond expectation. Throughout the year, the student completed four Health Science courses, while maintaining a grade of 80% or higher. The student's academic success paralleled their ability to communicate with others and feel accepted. In addition to classroom interventions, a well-constructed action was implemented for their clinical learning experience as part of the nursing course. Utilizing a team approach, the student's clinical education was completed. This student able to earn state certification and land a job!

The success rate of the STC Practical Nursing Program and its true college level curriculum is attributed to passionate and dedicated instructors like Linda. Suncoast Technical College is honored and proud to announce her as their 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year. Thank you for all you do and congratulations Linda!