Beck Named Outstanding Nursing School Administrator

Baton Rouge, LA – Jennifer Beck, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.E., Dean of Our Lady of the Lake College’s School of Nursing, was named 2012 Nursing School Administrator during this year’s eleventh Annual Nightingale Awards hosted by the Louisiana State Nurses Association Foundation.

The Nightingale Awards are the association’s highest recognition for quality service, commitment, and excellence in nursing and health care education for nurses in the state of Louisiana.

Dr. Beck, who has served as the Dean of the School of Nursing since March 2011, is overseeing major curriculum advances in the School along with the development of a foundational Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. She is known as an accessible and supportive administrator who tirelessly advocates on behalf of her faculty and students. Recently Dr. Beck was interviewed for a nationally syndicated article about the growing value and importance of advanced education for nurses.

Dr. Beck received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Science in Education degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia, her Master of Science degree from California State University–Los Angeles, and her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University. Her research centers on uncivil behaviors within the nursing education triad—students, faculty, and nurses and the reasons for the uncivil behavior.

Prior to beginning her academic career, Dr. Beck worked in critical care in California and Missouri and in medical-surgical nursing and diabetes education at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center. Before working at Our Lady of the Lake College, she taught associate degree students in California and LPN students in American Samoa, and was
instrumental in transitioning the program to an associate degree. In 1984, Dr. Beck began teaching in the Our Lady of the Lake School of Nursing diploma program where she was actively involved in transitioning the School of Nursing into higher education, and served on task forces to develop the LPN-RN Transition and RN-BSN programs. Dr. Beck has taught across the nursing curriculum, serving as RN-BSN program director, ASN program director, and Associate Dean prior to being appointed Dean of the School of Nursing.

Because she believes in the importance of professional and community service, Dr. Beck holds membership with numerous organizations including the Louisiana Council of Administrators of Nursing Education where she serves in a leadership role, the American Nurses’ Association, National League for Nursing, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, the Association for the Study of Higher Education, and the American Educational Research Association.

Nightingale Award nominations in each category are reviewed by out-of-state judges who are national nursing leaders. Reviewing judges included: Cindy R. Balkstra, Regional Coordinator, Georgia Nurses Association; Lori Chovanak, Executive Director, Montana Nurses Association; Willa Fuller, Executive Director, Florida Nurses Association; Ernest J. Grant, Chair, American Nurses Association Nominations and Elections Committee; Jane Nelson, Executive Director, Oklahoma Nurses Association; Bonnie Osgood, President, Delaware Nurses Association; Donna M. Policastro, Executive Director, Rhode Island State Nurses Association; and Norine Watson, Director of Nursing Excellence with Nemours/duPont Hospital for Children.

Offering master’s, baccalaureate, and associate degrees, Our Lady of the Lake College is a four-year, independent institution, providing a strong foundation in the liberal arts and continuing its highly-regarded health sciences and nursing programs. Established in 1923 as a nursing school by the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady (FMOL), Our Lady of the Lake College holds to a Franciscan tradition of service, offer a healing and spiritual presence for the community and especially those most in need. To learn more about Our Lady of the Lake College, please visit www.ololcollege.edu.

For additional information, please call Elaine Crowe, Communications Coordinator, at 225-768-1700.