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**CONTACT: GENIE ALICE CAUSEY  
(662) 377-2371**

### **LOCAL RESIDENTS NOMINATED FOR NURSING AWARDS**

TUPELO, Miss.— Several local residents are nominees for North Mississippi Medical Center's Excellence in Nursing Awards. The awards ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 16, at the BancorpSouth Conference Center, Hilton Garden Inn in Tupelo.

Lynette Hunt, RN, of Ackerman, is nominated for the Excellence in Leadership Award. Hunt works as episode manager for NMMC Home Health's Eupora branch. She received an associate's degree in nursing and is certified in gerontology. In her 15 years at NMMC, she has worked as a field nurse, case manager, branch manager and recertification nurse before starting in her current position.

She and her husband Coyt have three adult children – Heather, Mandy and Daniel. She is an active participant in Relay for Life and in various community service projects through her NMMC Home Health office. She is a member of the Church of Christ, where she teaches in the nursery.

Alicia Gardner, RN, of Houston is nominated for the Excellence in Education Award. Gardner works in general surgery and at the NMMC Bariatric Center. She has been employed at NMMC for two years. She received an associate's degree in nursing from Itawamba Community College and a bachelor's degree in nursing from Delta State University.

She and her husband Michael are members of Parkway Baptist Church in Houston. She is also an active participant in Project Hope.

Sherry Gaskin, RN, of Okolona, is nominated for the Outcomes Improvement Excellence Award. Gaskin works as outcomes manager in the Patient-Focused Improvement Department at NMMC. She started work at NMMC in 1992 as a staff nurse, and then worked as a pulmonary clinician for NMMC Home Health before becoming outcomes manager. She received her associate's degree in nursing from Itawamba Community College and her bachelor's degree in nursing from Mississippi University for Women. She is currently working toward her master's degree in nursing at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

She and her husband David have one son, Joshua. The family attends Common Ground Christian Church.

Amy Weathersby, RN, of Houston, is nominated for the RN Excellence Award. She works on 5 South as a charge nurse, and has been employed at NMMC for five years. She received her associate's degree in nursing from Itawamba Community College, and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing at Mississippi University for Women.

She is married to Michael Weathersby and has three children – 15-year-old Jay, 9-year-old Kealy and 6-year-old Keagen. The family attends Furrs Baptist Church.

The NMMC Excellence in Nursing Awards recognize and reward members of the NMMC nursing staff who exemplify standards of excellence.