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

TUPELO, Miss.—Several Saltillo 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.

Jessica Fears, RN, is nominated for the Excellence in Mentorship Award. Fears works as a nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She has worked at NMMC for 10 years. She has a bachelor's degree in nursing and NICU certification.

She and her husband Alfred have two children – 2-year-old Alfred Fears II and 1-year-old Jacob Fears. The family attends God's House of Prayer, where Fears is in the choir and serves as youth minister.

Katherine Lee, RN, is nominated for the Outcomes Improvement Excellence Award. Lee serves as outcomes manager in the Patient-Focused Improvement Department. She received her bachelor's degree in nursing from Missouri State University, and her master's degree from American Sentinel University in Colorado. She has been employed at NMMC since 1997, when she started as a resource pool nurse. In 2007, she became outcomes manager.

She has one son – 13-year-old Dallas Lee, and she is a member of Northstar Church in Saltillo.

Lecia Poteet, CNA, is nominated for the Nursing Assistant Excellence Award. Poteet serves as a nurse in the resource pool, and she has worked at NMMC for seven years. She and her husband Phillip have one daughter, Tasha, and a son-in-law, Chris. The family attends Tupelo Free Will Baptist Church.

Brenda Carreira, RN, is nominated for the Rookie Excellence Award. Carreira works as a nurse on 5 South, where she has worked for 11 months. She received her associate's degree in nursing from Itawamba Community College. She has three children – Courtney, 30, James, 28, and Craig, 21.

Kayle Patterson, RN, is nominated for the Rookie Excellence Award. Patterson works as a nurse in surgical intensive care, where she has worked for almost one year.

She received her bachelor's degree in nursing from Mississippi University for Women.  
She is engaged to Baylor Dampeer.

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