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LOCAL CRNA VISITS CHINA, TIBET TO EXCHANGE HEALTH CARE INFORMATION

TUPELO, Miss.—Rhonda Kelly, CRNA at North Mississippi Medical Center, recently went on a trip with the People to People medical exchange program to China and Tibet.

Nine other certified registered nurse anesthetists from around the nation went on the trip. The People to People program provides a method for medical professionals to share information – participants attend lectures and witness patient care in a variety of settings. They compare different treatment and diagnostic methods to help each other improve care.

“We met with anesthesiologists in China and Tibet – they don’t have CRNAs over there,” Kelly said. “We went to five hospitals and attended several lectures. It is very interesting to see how different they practice medicine there. One of the most interesting lectures was on holistic healing – the principles of hot and cold therapy, acupuncture and herbal medicine. It is definitely very different from what we do here.”

The trip lasted 12 days, and in addition to learning about how medicine is practiced there, they were able to share information on how medicine is practiced in the United States.

“They were all very interested in our OB anesthesia,” said Kelly, who works at the NMMC Women’s Hospital. “We had a very nice professional exchange and we all came away from it with a lot of new information.”

Kelly, who has worked at NMMC for six years, was nominated by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists to be a part of the program.