2010 Distinguished Alumni Award

Patricia (Franey) Haberkorn '83, M.S.N. '07

Patty (Franey) Haberkorn is the recipient of the MNAO Distinguished Alumni Award – the highest award the College bestows upon its graduates. Patty is a two time graduate of Mennonite College of Nursing, receiving her diploma in nursing in 1983 and her Master’s in Nursing Systems Administration in 2007. She also received the Outstanding Graduate Achievement Award.

Patty started her career at Fairbury Hospital where she virtually worked in every department: medical/surgical, ICU, ER, OB, and was House Supervisor until 1989. She was hired at Futures Unlimited, which is a comprehensive center serving adults with disabilities. She has dedicated her career to meeting the health and medical needs of the disabled.

According to her nominator, her most significant accomplishment has been promoting awareness of the support needs of individuals of disabilities who are facing a health crisis or issue, which she does in several ways. She has developed an extensive rapport with the medical community throughout the region, and the all respect her insight when addressing the needs of someone who cannot necessarily communicate what’s wrong. Patty was instrumental in coordinating a medical treatment and follow-up plan that meets the needs of the individual with a disability. It could be something as simple as arranging for the person with autism to use the side door of the doctor’s office because they may be uncomfortable in a waiting room with many strangers.

Patty serves as a preceptor for MCN and sees the importance of exposing students to the field of disabilities and the supports needed for providing good healthcare to the disabled. She also provides extensive training and support to the direct care workers at Futures Unlimited as they are often an integral part of the medical treatment plan for the person with a disability.

Patty is an example of giving back to the community. Since 2001, she has been a member of the Prairie Central School Board, and has served in several leadership roles on the board, including being elected as the president this past year. She is also a member of the Livingston Country Educates for Alcohol Abuse and Prevention (LEAAP), The Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Community Coalition, and most recently assisted the local Health Department in developing a Pandemic Flu Crisis Plan.