Announcement
Nursing Professor Receives Prestigious Research and Leadership Awards
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John Lowe, R.N., Ph.D., F.A.A.N., the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing’s John Wymer Distinguished Professor, has received two prestigious awards for his research and leadership. Florida Atlantic University presented Dr. Lowe with a “University Researcher of the Year” award at FAU’s Honors Convocation recently. In addition, the Florida Nurses Association selected him as South Florida Region “Nurse of the Year” for 2012.

Dr. Lowe is known for his dedication to developing substance abuse prevention for Native American Youth. Native American youth, compared to youth from other racial/ethnic backgrounds are at especially high risk for drug use and drinking, which makes them particularly susceptible to the development of substance use problems. Unfortunately, substance abuse prevention studies among Native American Indian early adolescents are non-existent, despite evidence that abuse is an increasing problem in this population.

To help pursue prevention solutions, Dr. Lowe received two grants from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute on Drug Abuse. The research enabled by these grants benefits Native American youth as well as FAU nursing students who work alongside Dr. Lowe. He is one of only 17 Native American nurses with a doctoral degree in the United States and has introduced FAU nursing students to the Trail of Tears, a forced march west to Oklahoma beginning more than a century ago when soldiers acted to remove Cherokees living in the southeast. Dr. Lowe takes groups of students to Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma as part of their community health learning experience, an integrative nursing practicum. Cultural characteristics, traditions, and the College of Nursing’s caring theory are intricately interwoven to address looming health issues, like diabetes.

Congratulations, Dr. Lowe!