



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Center For Nursing Excellence announces winners of the  
Nursing Legend Awards***

ALBUQUERQUE — Today, the New Mexico Center For Nursing Excellence announced their annual winners of the Nursing Legend Awards. The winners of the Nursing Legend Awards will be honored at the annual [New Mexico Nursing Excellence Awards](#) Gala on Saturday, April 15, 2023. The winners of the additional 21 different categories of distinctive nursing awards will be announced in person at the gala.

The New Mexico Nursing Legend Awards are presented to fully retired nurses whose careers have significantly enhanced the nursing profession in New Mexico. This year's recipients are Terry Fuhs, MSN, RN, CEN, CPEN; Barbara Overman, PhD, MSN, MPH, RN, CNM; and Martha Schwebach, MSN, FNP. "We are incredibly proud to honor nurses who have dedicated their lives to caring for others while elevating the profession of nursing across our great state," said Robert Middleton, MSN, MBA, RN, CENP, and President of the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Center For Nursing Excellence. Middleton continued, "The winners of this year's Nursing Legends Awards are truly legends in our profession. Their accomplishment over the course of their careers and contributions to nursing across this beautiful state are worthy of recognition and celebration."

Terry L Fuhs, MSN, RN, CEN, CPEN is being recognized for work in trauma and life support education in New Mexico. She retired from the University of New Mexico Hospital as the Trauma/ALS Instructor. She also worked at Rehoboth McKinley Christian Hospital for over forty years. Fuhs spent thousands of hours, most of them as a volunteer, crossing the State of New Mexico as an instructor in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), CPR, Crisis Prevention and Intervention, and much, much more. She is recognized for her expertise and contribution to emergency and trauma care throughout the State. Upon learning of this recognition Fuhs responded, "I am humbled and honored to be recognized for my work in nursing. Thank you for this incredible award."

Barbara Overman, PhD, MSN, MPH, RN, CNM is being recognized for an almost fifty year long nursing career that was dedicated mostly to nurse education, primarily in nurse-midwifery and advanced practice. Throughout her career she has over 13 publications. She was responsible for 14 extramural grants and 7 intramural grants, many as primary investigator. She has presented her work at over 75 national and regional meetings. Her applied scholarship and funded projects focused on access to

education and health services for rural and under-served and under-represented groups as well as innovative clinical strategies to reduce disparities in health status. Since her retirement, Dr. Overman has remained involved in Navajoland Nurses United for Research and Service, a non-profit providing culturally grounded mentorship and training to nurse students and health professionals. Reflecting on her career Dr. Overman said, "Commitment to a better future for women is at the core of all I have done as a nurse-midwife and teacher. I am grateful to the Center for Nursing Excellence for illuminating herstory in New Mexico and am awed to be among the recipients of this honor."

Martha Schwebach, MSN, FNP, RN is the founder of Moriarty Medical Center, now Central New Mexico Medical Center to provide healthcare to rural communities, including Bernalillo, Santa Fe and Guadalupe counties. Schwebach is cited as the first family nurse practitioner in the United States. She was part of a pilot program to train nurses as practitioners in response to shortage of physicians across the country and especially in rural areas. In 1974, she was honored by President Ford as one of the "Ten Outstanding Young Women of America". Martha pioneered the way for nurses' practice within healthcare. "I am so very honored to receive the Nursing Excellence Award as a Legend of Nursing from the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence. It was my privilege to serve the kind people of the Estancia Valley as this nation's first Family Nurse Practitioner and want to thank them with deep gratitude as well."

This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the [New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence](#). You can buy tickets to attend the annual [Nursing Excellence Awards](#) on the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence's website. This year's gala will be on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at Sandia Resort & Casino, starting at 5:30 PM with a reception and silent auction. To reach this year's recipients of the Nursing Legend Awards, please contact Meggin Lorino at (505) 750-4756. Photos of the winners below are for media use.

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*The mission of the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence (NMCNE) is to advance and engage the nursing community to promote excellence and improve the health of all New Mexicans.*



Pictured from left to right: Terry L Fuhs, Barbara Overman, and Martha Schwebach