

USF Alumna Receives 40 under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader Award

Joliet, Ill.- The University of St. Francis is proud to announce that alumna Amanda Buechel, BSN, R.N. has been recognized as one of the 40 under 40 Emerging Nurse Leaders in Illinois.

The 40 under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader Award is sponsored by the Illinois Nurses Foundation and annually presented. The award intends to celebrate the dedicated service of nurses to the population and encourage exemplary dedication to the nursing profession, and promote growth in leadership for the advancement of nursing in Illinois.

Buechel is an intensive care float nurse at Advocate Christ Medical Center. She is part of the clinical resource unit and floats between the four ICU units, three step down units, emergency room, post-anesthesia care unit or other areas where she is needed. "My responsibility is help units when their staffing requires additional nurses to take care of their patient census. I come in and take care of a team of patients as if I was part of their floor," explains Buechel.

Buechel is humbled to have received this award. "There are so many deserving nurses in Illinois and I am honored to be one of them," she says.

Being open to new opportunities and multi-tasking are traits she has identified that have helped her be successful in her career. She also credits her mentors, who supported her during nursing school. "Kate Weigel was my mentor through the end of my nursing school career. She was one of my instructors at USF and the Student Nurses Association faculty advisor. She helped me so much while I was trying to find my way in nursing," says Buechel.

"USF's curriculum is one like no other," she says. "The instructors in the Leach College of Nursing push you to strive for your best. The nursing curriculum prepared me with all the knowledge I needed to start out as a new nurse."

Buechel feels the 40 under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader Award is a great vehicle to help support young nurses and their achievements.

"This award is helping to create recognition for nurses, early on, for all the things they are doing to positively impact nursing and the community," Buechel explains. "I hope that by my receiving this award as a young nurse, other new nurses will see they can take on leadership roles early on in their career and be recognized for their contributions."

The second annual 40 under 40 Emerging Nurse Leaders list will be published in "The Nursing Voice" and on the American Nursing Association of Illinois website. All awardees will be honored at a recognition ceremony in September.

The University of St. Francis, in Joliet, Ill., serves 3,700 students nationwide, offering undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs in the arts and sciences, business, education, nursing and social work. There are 47,000 USF alumni across the globe. For information, call 800-735-7500 or visit stfrancis.edu. University of St. Francis: Bigger thinking. Brighter purpose.

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MEDIA INQUIRIES

Mary Lin Muscolino

Executive Director of Marketing & Communications

mmuscolino@stfrancis.edu | 815-740-3379