RT's Conyers awarded 'Excellence in Leadership'

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Dan Conyers, RRT (holding plaque), is this year's recipient of the Award for Excellence in Leadership. Other Clinical Professions leaders celebrating with him (from left): Pathology and Laboratory Medicine’s Arda Peterson; Radiology’s Kim Smith; Pulmonary Function Laboratory’s Bob Whitman, PhD; Clinical Professions/Pharmacy’s Rick Couldry, RPh; Biomedical Engineering’s Kevin Hashman; and Pharmacy’s Katherine Miller, PharmD.

Respiratory Therapy Director Dan Conyers, RRT, has received The University of Kansas Health System’s Award for Excellence in Leadership, an annual recognition of an extraordinary leader.

Health system executives credit his lifelong commitment to our organization, education, his profession and the community.

“Dan is one of those individuals who is passionate about patient care and the staff who deliver that care,” says Bob Page, president and CEO.

“His leadership has been evident through the many years he was seen rounding on nights and weekends,” Page adds. “He collaborates to ensure the best possible patient care and works to train future healthcare professionals.”

This is the fourth year for the award. It was created to spotlight a leader who is “a role model for the organization, representing through word, action and results a strong commitment to the health system’s mission, vision, values and five-star goals.”

Among the award criteria, recipients must demonstrate a mindset centered on the patient (or customer), teamwork with colleagues, a focus on organizational improvement, community involvement and ability to effectively manage costs, among other factors.
Conyers helps lead our health system’s Excellence in Caring Awards. He presented one of the plaques this month.

Conyers joined our organization more than 40 years ago, starting as a student cleaning respiratory equipment. He climbed through the ranks and held every job in the department, except administrative assistant. He was named assistant director of Respiratory Therapy in 1992 and director in 2006.

He also has been an adjunct assistant professor with the University of Kansas Medical Center since 1996 and has been active in numerous groups at our health system and in his profession, from the KUMC Auxiliary and Advanced Life Support education to chair of Vizient’s Respiratory Care Council.

Last October he was named a Fellow of the American Association for Respiratory Care, recognizing his “profound and sustained contributions” to the profession.

In addition to his longtime impact at our organization, he is involved with the Boy Scouts, United Way and other charities, and he helps direct our health system’s Excellence in Caring Award.

Receiving the Award for Excellence in Leadership, says Conyers, “was a great surprise and an incredible honor!” But leadership is a team sport, he notes, so he shares the honor with his team: Assistant Directors David Northrop, RRT, and Courtney Ash, RRT; the Respiratory Therapy leadership team; Clinical Professions directors; and Clinical Professions Vice President Rick Couldry, RPh.

Conyers also expressed appreciation to Page, “who keeps us relevant through continuous change,” and Tammy Peterman, RN, FAAN, our health system’s executive vice president, chief operating officer and chief nursing officer. “She gave me my favorite marching orders,” Conyers says. “Do your duty and a little more …”

Previous winners of the Award for Excellence in Leadership are Monica Lubek, Finance vice president; Senior Nursing Director Rachel Pepper, DNP; and Anna Warner, RN, nurse manager of Cardiothoracic Surgery PCU (HC 4).