

Partly cloudy 61°
5 Day Forecast

BOOK A LONG HOLIDAY WEEKEND AND GET FREE BREAKFAST*
GO!
EMAIL DELIVERY
Get the news sent to your Inbox
Click here to sign up

The Villager
SERVING THE WOODLANDS AND SOUTH MONTGOMERY COUNTY

News | HCN Classifieds | Yellow Pages | HCN Job Connect | Today's Print Ads | HCN My Capture

Thursday 29 December, 2005 | Home > News > The Villager > Education

- NEWS SEARCH**
go
Advanced search
- HCN Top Stories**
- Community Calendar**
- Company Directory**
- HCN Ad Deadlines/Rates**
- The Courier**
- The Pasadena Citizen**
- 1960 Sun**
- Atascocita Observer**
- Cleveland Advocate**
- Dayton News**
- Deer Park**
- East Montgomery Co Observer**
- Fort Bend/ Southwest Sun**
- Friendswood Journal**
- Greater Houston Weekly**
- HCN Photo Gallery**
- Humble Observer**
- Katy Sun**
- Kingwood Observer**
- Lake Houston Sentinel**
- Magnolia Potpourri**
- Memorial Spring Branch Sun**
- North Channel Sentinel**
- Pearland Journal**
- Spring Observer**
- Suburban News**
- The Citizen Bay Area Edition**
- The Villager**
- Top News
 - More Villager News
 - Sports
 - Opinions
 - Diversions
 - Education**
 - Religion
 - Business
 - Christmas in the Woods
 - Villager Columnists
 - From the Press Box
 - Announcements
 - Obituaries
 - Contact The Villager
- Tomball Potpourri**
- Waller County News Citizen**
- HCN Job Connect**

Education

Montgomery college nursing student is changing the face of healthcare one patient at a time

By: CHEVALIER MAYES, Villager staff12/15/2005

Email to a friend | Voice your opinion | Printer-friendly



Michelle Hokanson's will and drive to not only study nursing, but to improve medical care all together, has already won her one of the nation's premier nurse and healthcare honors, and she does not have plans to stop there.
Hokanson is hoping to one day change the face of healthcare and the project that landed her the Cherokee Inspired Comfort Award has put her one step closer to doing just that.

Michelle Hokanson's will and drive to not only study nursing, but to improve medical care all together, has already won her one of the nation's premier nurse and healthcare honors, and she does not have plans to stop there.

Hokanson is hoping to one day change the face of healthcare and the project that landed her the Cherokee Inspired Comfort Award has put her one step closer to doing just that.

For honors credit, Hokanson composed a research paper and project that caught the attention of honors program co-director, Kathleen Monohan, who nominated Hokanson for the award. The project zeroed in on the pain assessment scales healthcare professionals currently use for patients to give them an idea of how much pain they are experiencing.

Some of the pain assessment scales at this time have faces and numbers for patients to choose from, all depicting certain levels of pain. Hokanson, however, noticed the present pain assessment scales were lacking something that could hinder the pain evaluation process when it comes to certain people.

"I did a prototype for Hispanic women and African-American men," she said. "Basically being an RN and spending time with patients who are elderly and people who can not communicate that well; it is because they are from different cultures. They have trouble utilizing the current pain assessments we have."

Hokanson said after she started researching her idea and after she presented it for honors credit, everything "took off and snowballed from there."

"People thought it was a good idea and when I presented it I saw what an impact it had on people," she said. Hokanson introduced her project at the Great Plains Honors Conference in Kansas last March. She said "the feedback was amazing."

"A lot of people said they had never heard of anything like this and that this could change the face of healthcare," she said. "The really neat thing is that the current pain assessment scale was created by a nurse, so if I can help someone I'm all for it."

Hokanson is in the process of having her idea patented.

Carol Girocco, MSN, RN and nursing faculty at Montgomery College, said it is Hokanson's compassion and willingness to go the extra mile as a nurse that will take her far.

"She's got an incredible mind," she said. "She really will go somewhere in nursing. The attributes she brings to nursing are intangible. She has that little extra spark that separates her, in that she not only wants to learn it, but make it better. She has an intellectual curiosity that she carries with her that will make professional nursing better. She has very good ethics and she's just a kind person."

Hokanson's kindness and dedication to nursing Girocco spoke of, is obvious and clear as day when she talks about her patients.

"I want to make a difference and do something that may really help them and not just do my job," she said. "Being a doctor is fabulous and it's a wonderful gift, but you don't get to spend a lot of time with patients. I want to be there for my patients and I want to be an advocate for my patients."

Hokanson said she first became interested in nursing three years ago, after her dad took sick and she saw how the nurses in the Intensive Care Unit were "so compassionate and caring."

Hokanson works at Memorial Hermann-The Woodlands Hospital and is active in several different organizations. One of them being the Asthma Association, as Monohan said Hokanson is heavily involved in raising money for asthma research. Monohan said Hokanson's mother suddenly passed away from an asthma attack a couple of months ago.

Monohan described Hokanson as a "pretty amazing student." She said she nominated Hokanson for the award

HOUSTON COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS NEWS PARTNER
abc 3 EYEWITNESS NEWS
HOUSTON'S NEWS LEADER

LIVE IN THE WOODLANDS?

Showcase Auto Sales
BUY * SELL * TRADE *
CONSIGNMENTS *
Free Warranties!
CLICK HERE

Today's Print Ads
Click to Enlarge

Klein ISD Food Service

COME JOIN OUR TEAM!
\$4.10 hourly pay
Starting pay \$5.00 per hour
\$1.50 per hr after successful completion of training period
Comprehensive benefits but we will train
No tuition assistance either

Benefits include (after successful training period):
- Sick Days
- Insurance - Teacher Retirement
- Application Fee waived for All Human Resources Department Jobs
- 15000 Sign-on Bonus
- 401k Plan
- Health, Dental, Vision, Life, Acc. Plan, Tuition 777-252-1111
832-249-4241

Seasons Greetings

NEW HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

FREE!!
Wreath, Mince and Salsadonna Or \$1,800 Downer Rebate at Closing

• \$0 Move In - No Credit
• Bad Credit or Good Credit
• Your One Stop Shop
• Real Estate and Mortgage

Call
832-704-5088 To Apply
"Credit Issues Resolved"

NO LIMITATIONS LANDSCAPING"

YARD MAINTENANCE
• FLOWERING BUSHES
• TREE TRIMMING
• PRESSURE WASHING
• DECKS
• ORNAMENTAL WELDING

Start Getting Ready for the HOLIDAYS

We do all professional work and we are willing to get the job done!
281-577-8365



because it called for people who have gone above and beyond in the field in terms of patients or who have come up with some kind of innovation.

Family, friends and co-workers of Hokanson, as well as Dr. Thomas Butler, president of Montgomery College, surprised her with the award Dec. 6 at Montgomery College.

Monohan said Hokanson beat out 1,300 other students and professional healthcare providers for the grand prize and won a crystal plaque and an all-expense paid Caribbean cruise for two.

The winners were chosen by a panel of nurse leaders and Cherokee Uniform professionals. Some winners of The Cherokee Inspired Comfort Award have been featured in major metropolitan newspapers, the nightly news and in "Reader's Digest."

For more information about The Cherokee Inspired Comfort Award provided by Cherokee Uniforms, visit www.CherokeeUniforms.com.

Chevalier Mayes may be reached at cmayes@mail.hcnonline.net.

Advertisement



©Houston Community Newspapers Online 2005

Email to a friend
 Voice your opinion
 Printer-friendly
 ↑ Top

Send us your community news, events, letters to the editor and other suggestions. Contact us at: HCNOnline.

Copyright © 1995 - 2005 [PowerOne Media, Inc.](http://www.PowerOneMedia.com) All Rights Reserved.

[News](#) |
 [HCN Classifieds](#) |
 [Yellow Pages](#) |
 [HCN Job Connect](#) |
 [Today's Print Ads](#) |
 [HCN My Capture](#)