

National Honors for GSN Program Director

When an honor is presented only once a year to a single individual by their peers, the assumption is that the award is highly regarded. Therefore, the recipient must be among the best in their field. So when Army Col. (ret.) Linda Wanzer, MSN, RN, DNP, CNOR, was told she had been selected to receive the 2012 Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) National Award of Excellence in Perioperative Nursing, she was taken aback.

“This is just one of those moments in life when you look around and realize that you have made an impact in your professional field,” said Wanzer, director of the GSN’s Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist program at USU. “It is quite an honor to receive this from my peers personally, but I think just as important is the acknowledgement of the value of clinical nurse specialists in the operating rooms.”

This award is the highest honor bestowed by AORN and is awarded once a year to one deserving recipient. Linda Wanzer is the 24th nurse to receive this honor in recognition of her accomplishments in the areas of practice, education, and research in perioperative nursing supporting excellence in patient care. She is one of only a very small number of military nurses to be recognized.

According to Dr. Carol A. Romano, associate dean for Academic Affairs at the GSN, “This recognition brings honor not only to Linda but to the University and the Graduate School of Nursing. We are all proud to have Linda as part of our faculty!”

Wanzer will accept the award at the AORN Congress in New Orleans, March 24-29, 2012. AORN represents the interests of more than 160,000 perioperative nurses by providing nursing education, standards, and clinical practice resources to enable optimal outcomes for patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures. AORN’s 40,000 registered nurse members manage, teach, and practice perioperative nursing, are enrolled in nursing education, or are engaged in perioperative research.