

Nursing Faculty Win Recognition

Cheryl Pearce and Connie Swentek Receive Teaching Awards

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By Mimi Ko Cruz



Cheryl Pearce

Being excellent teachers, inspiring mentors and committed nurse-midwives has earned nursing lecturers

Cheryl Pearce and Connie Swentek awards from the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

The 79-year-old women's health care organization presented Pearce its "Award of Excellence in Teaching" and Swentek its "Award of Excellence" based on student nominations.

In their award nomination for Pearce, students said that she is "extremely knowledgeable and has the unique ability to simplify difficult concepts into a practical format that is easy to understand."

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Swentek's nominators

wrote: "Swentek has

served Kaiser

Permanente as a

midwife and

spokesperson for the

midwifery service in



Connie Swentek

Orange County. ... She provides leadership on the state and

local levels and is an exemplary role model to those pursuing

midwifery careers and those practicing midwifery."

The duo teach courses in the master of science in nursing

program, women's health care concentration. Pearce, a midwife

at Kaiser Permanente in La Palma, teaches a variety of theory

courses, including advanced health assessment. Swentek, a

past president of the California Nurse Midwives Association and

chapter chair from 1994 to 1998, is the placement coordinator

for the concentration and teaches clinical courses.

"We are very happy to have these active midwives teaching in

our program," said Paula Herberg, chair and professor of

nursing. "Because they are both working midwives while

teaching part time, they bring a 'real world' perspective that

students thoroughly enjoy."

ACNM administers and promotes continuing education

programs, establishes clinical practice standards and conducts

research. Its mission is to promote the health and well being of

women and infants through the development and support of midwifery as practiced by certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives.

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