

# 2025

## TOGETHER IN EXCELLENCE

— NURSING REPORT —



Stormont Vail  
Health



# A LETTER FROM OUR CHIEF NURSING OFFICER

Dear Team,

It is my honor to share the **2025 Annual Nursing Impact Report**, a reflection of a year defined by nursing excellence, innovation, and deep commitment to those we serve. Our nurses continue to exemplify what it means to lead with compassion, clinical expertise, and a relentless focus on safety and quality.

## A YEAR OF EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION, & IMPACT

We advanced toward our **fifth Magnet® designation**, a distinction held by fewer than **2% of hospitals nationwide**, according to the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) [data](#).

We also strengthened our nursing workforce and proudly secured our first **ANCC Transition Accreditation Program® (PTAP)** designation for our [Nurse Residency Program](#), demonstrating our commitment to supporting new graduates as they transition into practice.

## LEADING WITH COMPASSION, DELIVERING WITH QUALITY

Our professional governance councils continue to thrive, ensuring a structure grounded in shared decision-making, respect, and professional growth. Through this model, nurses influence practice, policy, and professional development, ultimately improving patient outcomes, experience, and empowering nurses to drive change from the bedside.

## GROUNDING IN PURPOSE, GUIDED BY PRACTICE

Our impact reaches beyond the walls of our hospitals and clinics. In partnership with schools, community organizations, and local leaders, our nurses promote health education, access to care, and the well-being of individuals across our Kansas service region. These partnerships reinforce our mission and strengthen the trust placed in us as caregivers and community partners.

## TOGETHER, WE ELEVATE CARE

**To our community:** thank you for your trust.

**To our board members, nurse leaders, clinical nurses, and professional governance members:** thank you for your vision, dedication, and commitment to excellence.

Together, we are building a future where innovative nursing thrives and every patient receives the BEST care they deserve.

Amy Kincade  
Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer





## WHO WE ARE



Nursing Professional Practice Model

### MISSION

Working together to improve the health of our community.

### STRATEGIC NURSING PRIORITIES

- Safety: “Don’t harm me”
- Quality: “Heal me”
- Experience: “Be nice to me”
- People: “Be engaged”

### NURSING BY THE NUMBERS

- 1,865 Registered nurses
- 299 Licensed practice nurses
- 246 Advanced practice providers (with nursing licensure)
- 491 Certified nurses
- 1,489 BSN-prepared nurses
- 17,468 Combined years of tenure
- 700.9 Free nursing contact hours
- 204 Nurses hired
- 117 Nursing Promotions
- 21 Nurses retired



[Explore Our Program](#)

# NURSING EXCELLENCE



The Nurse Residency Program assisted my transition from a nursing student to a competent and confident nurse. The combination of education, mentorship, and hands-on practice has equipped me to provide the highest quality of care to patients in our community.

**Makenzie Brosa, RN - 2025 Nurse Residency Graduate**

## EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

\$175,446 Tuition reimbursement provided

\$57,500 Nursing scholarships awarded

Completed in 2025 Stormont Vail Health Simulation Center Expansion

## NURSE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

PTAP accreditation Achieved 2025

49 Graduates

85% Retention rate

24 case study posters evidence-based practice projects

**Learning approach:** Experiential and social constructivist methods, including hands-on training and group activities, shown to increase learner participation.

**SDOH collaboration** with The United Way of Kaw Valley to support social determinants of health understanding and interventions.



# RECOGNITION & AWARDS



### Daisy Award®

738 nominations

21 recipients

[Daisy Award® Winners](#)



### Sunflower Award

Launched by the Workplace Experience Council to recognize nursing support staff in Fall 2025.

2 recipients

[Sunflower Award Winners](#)



### Excellence in Nursing Awards

127 nominations

18 recipients

[See 2025 Winners](#)





*Celebrating our new nurses at the 2025 Nurse Residency Program graduation.*



*Keeping teams engaged and connected with friendly competitions, laid-back activities, and more.*



*Nursing Excellence Awards*



*Spreading holiday cheer at the best place to work, train, and grow.*



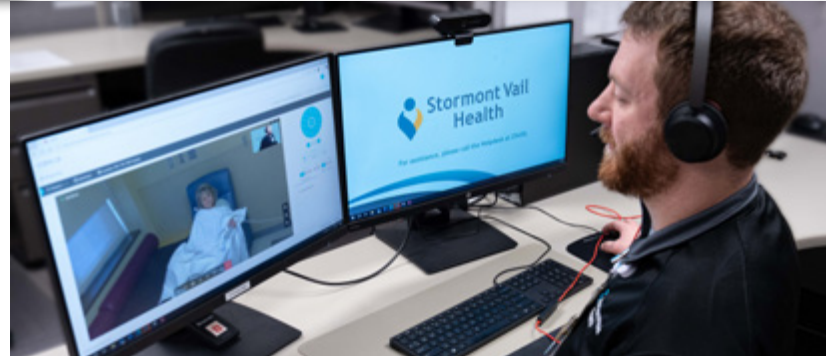
*Sunflower Award  
Valory Palmer*

*Sunflower Award  
Koko Fuentes*

“

She went above and beyond the way only few have. Because of the care she has shown me, I don't think I'll ever leave.

**DAISY nomination**



## QUALITY CARE

### PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COUNCIL

- 182% increase in policy review efficiency
- 155 Policies reviewed
- 55 Lippincott procedures reviewed
- Improved access to Lippincott resources
- Streamlined policy update workflows

### RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 12 Journal Clubs
- 2025 Stormont Vail Nursing Symposium “Uniting Voices, Empowering Change and Soaring Together”
  - Full Day Conference hosted by the Stormont Vail Professional Development Council
  - 9 Stormont Vail Nursing Poster Presentations
  - 6 Podium Presentations by Stormont Nurses
- 2025 Magnetizing KC “Celebrating Clinical Nurses”
  - sponsored by the Kansas City Magnet Program Directors Consortium
  - 3 Stormont Vail Nursing Podium Presentations
  - 4 Stormont Vail Nursing Poster Presentations

### ACCREDITATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

#### The Joint Commission (TJC)

##### Reaccreditations

- Hospital (system-wide)
- Laboratory (Flint Hills Campus)

##### Recertifications

- Chest Pain



#### Advanced Recertifications

- Primary Stroke Center
- Advanced Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement

#### American Heart Association (AHA) Get With The Guidelines® (GWTG)

Target: Stroke Gold Plus Achievement Award, Honor Roll-Elite, and Honor Roll Advanced Therapy (Topeka Campus)

Heart Failure Bronze with Target: Heart Failure Honor Roll and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll

Target: Stroke Rural Recognition Bronze Award (Flint Hills Campus)

Resuscitation (Flint Hills Campus)

#### American College of Cardiology (ACC)

NCDR Chest Pain: MI Registry Platinum Performance Achievement Award



### QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- Ambulatory colon cancer screening improvements
- Chronic care management and Care Transformation initiatives
- Wellbox program: expanding care management capacity for lower-risk populations
- Cesarean surgical site infection (SSI) reduction efforts
- Multimodal pain management enhancements for bariatric patients

# PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

**HAPI Prevention:** Activation of the SWOT (Strengthening Wound and Ostomy Treatment) specialty-trained nurses as a targeted intervention for prevention.

**Fall Prevention:** Implementation of the CLEAR Program (Caring Liaisons for Elderly Assistance and Recovery), along with enhanced ambulatory risk identification and visibility improvements.

**IVH Bundle Implementation:** Introduction of the IVH (intraventricular hemorrhage) prevention bundle in the Stormont Vail Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

## MILESTONES

### CAUTI-Free Units

1 Year	2 Years	3+ Years
Intermediate Care	7 North	Flint Hills Campus Medical Surgical
4 Pavilion		Joint Center
6 North		7 South
7 South		

### CLABSI-Free Units

1 Year	2 Years	3+ Years
Surgical ICU	6 North	Intermediate Care
	6 South	7 North
		Spine Center
		Pediatric ICU
		Flint Hills Campus Medical Surgical

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Escape Rooms

Team STEPPS Simulations

Residency Program Experiential Learning Activities

- Quality Scavenger Hunt
- Mentorship
- Wellness Passport



*Culture of Safety Escape Rooms*

# INNOVATION INITIATIVES

## GROWTH AND COLLABORATION

- TeamBirth-March of Dimes Collaborative
- HIV grant implementation at the Flint Hills Campus
- BCBS Lincoln Center pre- and post-natal care model implementation
- Expansion of primary care managers and social work support
- General inpatient (GIP) hospice and respite services added at the Flint Hills Campus



*Flint Hills Campus team members volunteering for Meals on Wheels and supporting local food banks in Junction City.*

## AT THE BEDSIDE

- CareAI and Virtual Nursing implementation
- Epic Alaris smart pump integration
- 65 new vitals machines added at Topeka Campus
- **Looking Ahead:** Incorporating Conversational Care principles and simulation to strengthen patient connection

## IN OUR COMMUNITIES

- Collaboration between Case Management and acute care nurses to identify SDOH needs earlier and connect patients to appropriate resources
- Streamlined community resource referrals, helping patients access support more quickly
- Expanded specialty telehealth services at the Flint Hills Campus, including neurology, nephrology, cardiology, and diabetes care



*Primary care team celebrating with each other.*

## FOR OUR TEAM

- Click-reduction workflow improvements to decrease documentation time for the nursing workforce
- Enhancements to the Simulation Center to create more effective training experiences
- Development of experiential escape rooms to reinforce learning and retention
- Nursing-led efforts to improve care team communication consistency
- Collaborative reporting, storytelling, and sharing of patient experience successes



*Acute Care hosting a team building retreat for team members.*

# 2025 DAISY AWARDS



**Debra Fritts, RN**  
Cancer Center



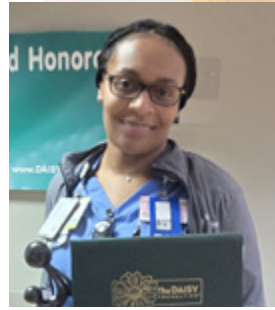
**Rachel Luthi, APRN**  
Weight Management  
Center



**Jim Hartman, RN**  
7 South Post Surg



**Maria Cortez, RN**  
Birthplace



**Chudney Williams, RN**  
Birthplace  
Flint Hills Campus



**Keely Wilson, RN**  
Pediatric Intensive  
Care Unit



**Jeannine McClellan, RN**  
Post-Anesthesia Care  
Unit



**Rachel MacNevin, RN**  
Neonatal Intensive  
Care Unit



**Chelsie Lowery, RN**  
Acute Care  
Flint Hills Campus



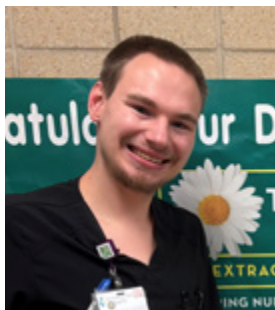
**Shannon Gregg, APRN**  
Neurology



**Maggie Scheck, RN**  
Transitional Care Unit



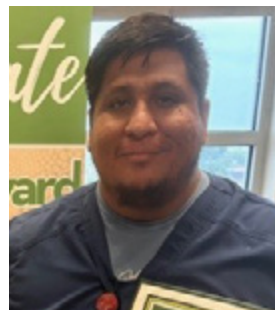
**Maci Kasprzak, RN**  
Pediatric Care Unit



**Brett Baker, RN**  
Emergency Department



**Michelle Clark-Galvan,  
APRN**  
CARE Clinic



**Ivan Lopez, RN**  
Pediatric Intensive  
Care Unit



**Caitlyn Viergever, RN**  
Cancer Center



**Marissa Arredondo, RN**  
Spine Center



**Calli Pimple, RN**  
Neonatal Intensive  
Care Unit



**Nick Ahlert, RN**  
Medical Critical Care



**Hannah Reynold, RN**  
Medical Surgical Unit  
Flint Hills Campus



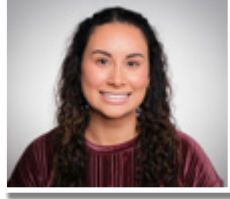
# EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AWARDS



**Excellence in Nursing Practice**  
Katrina Hinojosa, BSN, RN  
Acute Care RN  
Surgical Intensive Care Unit



**Excellence in Nursing Practice**  
Savannah Diegel, BSN, RN  
Acute Care RN  
Topeka Emergency Emergency Department



**Excellence in Nursing Leadership**  
Elizabeth Barnes, BSN, RN  
Nurse Manager  
Spine Center, Joint Center, & Transitional Care Unit



**Excellence in Nursing Mentorship**  
Justin Barnes, BSN, RN  
Nurse Manager  
Behavioral Health



**Excellence in Nursing Mentorship**  
Lydia Johnson, BSN, RN  
Acute Care RN  
Surgical Intensive Care Unit



**Excellence in Nursing Preceptorship**  
Daniel Breeden, RN  
Acute Care RN Preceptor  
Flint Hills Emergency Department



**Excellence in Nursing Preceptorship**  
Martie Long, BSN, RN, PNCB  
Acute Care RN  
Pediatric Intensive Care Unit



**Excellence in Research & Evidence Based Practice**  
Kathryn Baird, MSN, RN, NCC, APRN  
Advanced Practice Provider  
Neonatal Intensive Care



**Excellence in Advanced Practice Provider**  
Tiffany McKinley, MSN, APRN, AANPCP FNP-C  
Lead Advanced Practice Provider  
Topeka Emergency Department



**Excellence in Licensed Practical Nursing**  
Anita Chase, LPN  
Ambulatory LPN  
Digestive Health Center



**Excellence in Licensed Practical Nursing**  
Audrieanna Robles, LPN  
Ambulatory LPN  
Behavioral Health



**Excellence in Patient Care**  
Kara Lang  
Medical Assistant  
Breastfeeding Center



**Excellence in Patient Care**  
Hailey Daughty  
Patient Care Technician  
7 North Cardiac



**Excellence in Patient Care**  
Morgan Shea  
Patient Care Technician  
4 Pavilion



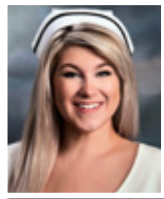
**Excellence in Patient Care**  
Jenaro Fairley  
Patient Care Technician  
Behavioral Health



**Excellence in Distinguished Community Outreach**  
Megan Thomas, BSN, RN  
Quality Program Manager  
PCS Administration



**Rising Star**  
Heather Ferguson, BSN, RN  
Clinical Nurse Educator  
Clinical Education



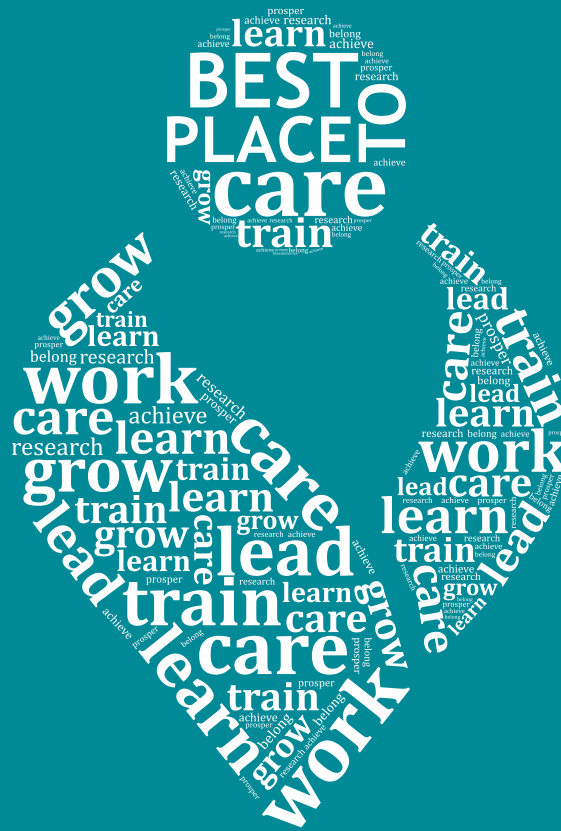
**Rising Star**  
Samantha May, BSN, RN  
Acute Care RN  
4 Pavilion

Celebrating the **BEST** in healthcare!

These awards are sponsored by

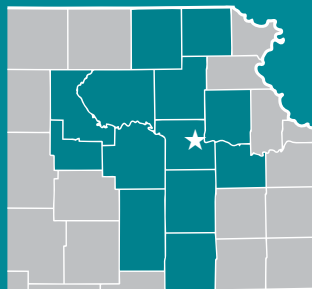


# we are Stormont



## Stormont Vail Health

Serving a multicounty region in Kansas, Stormont Vail Health features the region's only **Level II Trauma Center** and **Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit**. Stormont Vail provides primary and specialty care needs for patients in **Topeka, Manhattan, Junction City, and Emporia**, along with clinics in surrounding communities of **Carbondale, Emporia, Meriden, Netawaka, Osage City, Oskaloosa, and Wamego**.



The Stormont Vail organization is a **Mayo Clinic Care Network** member, meaning our experts have experts. The network provides Stormont Vail physicians access to top-tier expertise, innovative research, and collaboration on treatment options for complex medical conditions. Additionally, being a **Magnet Designated** facility reflects the organization's dedication to nursing excellence, providing patients with the highest standards of care, and fostering an environment of continuous improvement in patient outcomes.



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