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EXCELA HEALTH HOME CARE NURSE RECIPIENT OF GESSNER SCHOLARSHIP

GREENSBURG, PA, Sept. 9, 2013 ... Brenda Toth, RN, BSN, a nurse with Excelsa Health Home Care and Hospice, is the latest recipient of the Thomas P. Gessner, MD Healthcare Scholarship. The award, administered by the Latrobe Area Hospital Charitable Foundation where Dr. Gessner is president, was established in 2005 by the Latrobe Hospital medical staff to honor the physician for his 28 years of service.

A 1995 graduate of Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, Toth received her bachelor's degree in nursing from Waynesburg University in 2011. She will complete the family nurse practitioner program at Wheeling Jesuit University in May 2014. Her long-term goal is to care for women and children through practice in an office setting.

Toth started her career as a medical surgical nurse first at Mercy Hospital then Westmoreland Hospital. She moved to pediatrics and worked at another facility before returning to Excelsa Health as a weekend home care nurse. In this role, Toth experiences "the one-on-one time in which I can educate and develop personal relationships with my patients."

Toth is a 2010 honoree in the Cameos of Caring sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. She volunteers with the American Red Cross, mentors newly employed nurses, and participates in the evidence based practice council at Excelsa Health.

The Gessner scholarship is awarded annually to an Excelsa Health employee for continuing education at the master's level or beyond.

A longtime pediatrician, Dr. Gessner served as Latrobe Hospital medical director, and later as Senior Physician Advisor of Excelsa Health until his retirement in July 2006. Following his retirement from private practice, he moved to emeritus status on the Excelsa Health medical staff. A participant in Excelsa Health's tuition assistance program, Toth had never applied for scholarships until learning of the Gessner award. "When I read that Dr. Gessner was a pediatrician I felt as though this suited my interests and experience. I love nursing and know this will help to advance my career in a profession that has been so rewarding."

To contribute to the scholarship fund, contact the foundation office, 724-537-1925.