

6 Hardee Countians Receive Nursing Pins

Thirty-seven graduates of South Florida State College's Associate Degree Nursing program were honored in a traditional pinning ceremony June 20 in the Alan J. Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts on the Highlands Campus.

Six of them are Hardee County residents: Isabel Abel, Rolando Chavez, Esmeralda De Loera, Yesenia Lucatero, Deisy Piedad and Maria Ruiz.

Guest speaker was Dr. Marilyn Goodman, who noted, "At SFSC, we use the Seven C's of Caring model: competence, compassion, confidence, conscience, commitment, communication, and culture. These Seven C's have been instituted in all aspects of the nursing program. They were provided to ensure

that as you were in the classroom learning to provide competent skills to your patients, you were also trained to be a well-rounded individual and give back to your communities."

She concluded by saying, "When you're taking care of patients, each one has their own story. We've been provided with the tools to help instruct. Be the best nurse you can. Be the difference you can make. Your communities are dependent on your skills and technique."

The practice of pinning new graduates has been a nursing school tradition in the United States since 1916. The pin is worn prominently on a nurse's uniform.

One story of the ceremony's beginning goes back to 1883, when Queen Victoria awarded Florence Nightingale

the Royal Red Cross on St. George's Day for her service to the sick and injured during the Crimean War. In turn, Nightingale later extended the honor to her outstanding nursing students by presenting them with a medal of excellence.

Graduates of the ADN program become registered nurses by passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses exam. SFSC nursing graduates are usually fully employed in nursing within a few months of graduation.

SFSC's ADN program is the only nationally accredited nursing program in its service district of Hardee, Highlands and DeSoto counties. It is accredited through the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing Inc.



COURTESY PHOTO

Associate Degree Nursing graduates recite the Nightingale Pledge at their June pinning ceremony in Avon Park.

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From left: SFSC Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Jamie Bateman and SFSC Director of Financial Aid Heidi Markey. Bateman presents Markey with a \$40,000 grant check that was awarded to the SFSC Foundation to assist part-time students.

SFSC receives grant to help part-time students

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — A \$40,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County has been awarded to the South Florida State College (SFSC) Foundation Inc., to benefit part-time students who are attending SFSC in fall term 2019 and spring term 2020.

The grant comes from the Edward K. Roberts Community College Fund, which was established by Roberts as a legacy to support Florida's community colleges and other charitable organizations.

Managed by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, the fund continues Roberts' vision of making higher education a priority, particularly for those motivated to seek a better life for themselves.

SFSC's grant funds are designated to provide assistance to students who are attending college part time and may not qualify for other forms of financial aid. The grant covers tuition, housing, books, child care, automobile repairs, and needs that would otherwise prevent students from attending college. Recipients are identified by SFSC's Office of Financial Aid.

"Our students are blessed because of the generous donation from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County," said Jamie Bateman, SFSC executive director of institutional advancement. "The funds from this grant will assist our students in achieving their goals in higher education."

Bateman estimates the grant will assist about 50 to 60 students.

Depending on the students' needs, "on average students get approximately \$500 per semester with our scholarships," she said.