



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Governor Tony Evers / Secretary Kevin A. Carr

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2020

DOC Communications, 608-240-5060

DOCMedia@wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin DOC Nursing Director Honored by Peers

AAN Recognizes Mary Muse's Quarter Century of Work in Correctional Health Care

MADISON – Mary Muse has spent a quarter century working in correctional healthcare, a career honored when the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) included Muse among its class of 2020 Fellows. The Academy announced the new Fellows earlier this month, and it will recognize Muse and the other 2020 honorees in a virtual ceremony in October.

“This is an exciting time for me and a huge honor to have my work in correctional nursing and health care recognized,” said Muse, the Chief Nursing Officer/Nursing Director for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC). “Twenty-five years ago, I committed to improving health care for incarcerated persons, elevating the level of nursing practice in corrections, and increasing the visibility of correctional nursing within the nursing industry and the public.”

An invitation to be a Fellow represents accomplishments within the nursing profession and the ability to transform the American Health Systems. It marks a significant milestone in a nurse leader’s career to have their accomplishments honored by their colleagues within the profession.

Previously-elected Fellows review hundreds of applications and select new Fellows based on contributions to advance the public’s health.

“To have the privilege to now stand with some of my previous professors and nurse theorists who were once part of my academic study is huge,” Muse explained. “I am proud to stand with other nursing professionals whose work and contributions are nationally recognized; individuals who have advanced the science of nursing, influenced health policy and improved care delivery for patients.”

Most Fellows come from academia, and a review of recently-elected Fellows shows Muse is the first Fellow to come from the field of corrections since at least 2013.

Those who have worked with Muse during her 11 years at the Wisconsin DOC are not surprised to see her break through.

“Mary stresses nursing accountability and competency. And she challenges nursing and other health care professions to be the best they can be for the betterment of the health care delivery team and, ultimately, the patient,” said Steve Linn, a Health Services Nursing Coordinator at the DOC. “Mary strives in her work and oversight of others to increase health equality, especially around the issue of health care access for the underserved and at-risk patient population, while maintaining the overall focus of improving patient population health and health care delivery outcomes.”

Muse says friends and colleagues have encouraged her to submit an application for the honor for several years. The process requires defining how one has contributed to advancing nursing and policy, as well as sponsorship from two current academy Fellows.

“To have correctional health recognized suggests others are increasingly understanding the connection between correctional health and public health, and greater appreciation of how the social determinants impact and are linked to incarceration,” Muse said.