



NEWS RELEASE

DRAFT FOR REVIEW

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American Sentinel University and Colorado Hospital Association Name Rio Grande Hospital Nurse Colorado Health Care Star

***– Award Recognizes Khrystynn Cano at Rio Grande Hospital
as a Health Care Professional Making a Difference –***

AURORA, Colo. – February 07, 2018 – American Sentinel University and the Colorado Hospital Association named Khrystynn Cano, RN, a charge nurse with Rio Grande Hospital, as a Colorado Health Care Star Award winner. This award recognizes Cano as an exceptional health care professional.

Colorado Health Care Stars is a statewide health care professional award recognition program sponsored by American Sentinel University and the Colorado Hospital Association. The program was launched in February 2015 to acknowledge industry professionals in Colorado who exceed expectations in the delivery of health care.

Like many health care organizations across the country, Rio Grande hospital struggles with staff retention. Cano has gone above and beyond in her preceptoring of nursing students, leading many of them to join the staff full-time. She is an excellent representative of the hospital to both patients and internal staff.

Cano has guided many new physicians as they become oriented to Rio Grande Hospital's emergency room and regional resources. Her special efforts to make all feel welcome have led many new physicians to remain in the rural area which is an enormous win for both the hospital and the community.

"Khrystynn is a natural leader who redirects staff with a smile and will always take time for a coworker, patient, or visitor in need," said Candice Allen, Chief Nursing Officer for Rio Grande Hospital. "On top of this, she is a Basic Life Support instructor who assists with outreach in the community teaching CPR to local law enforcement, forest service agencies and our own internal hospital staff, all in her spare time."

Allen says that Cano's dedication and drive to help others has inspired more individuals to volunteer with local Emergency Medical Services agencies or pursue health care careers.

"Khrystynn inspires through her caregiving abilities, her positive attitude and willingness to teach others. Her impact on Colorado health care is known in our rural area and we are so lucky to have her at Rio Grande," said Allen.

"Nurses like Khrystynn bring much-needed care and kindness to their communities," said Michael Richter, Vice President of Partner Engagement for American Sentinel University. "She is a shining example of the fact that you don't need to live in the city to receive excellent care with compassion. We are honored to recognize her as a Colorado Health Care Star."

Nominate the Next Colorado Health Care Stars Winner

Nominate an exceptional clinical professional. Complete the nomination submission form at <http://www.chacareercenter.com/Employers/Employer-Items/Colorado-Healthcare-Heroes.aspx>

Each month the Colorado Hospital Association draws from the pool of nominees and chooses an individual that will be featured the following month on the Colorado Hospital Association Career Center website, receive a \$100 Visa gift card courtesy of American Sentinel University and be entered into a drawing at the end of the year for a monetary scholarship toward an accredited health care certificate or degree at American Sentinel University.

Learn more about American Sentinel University's online degree programs at <http://www.americansentinel.edu/nursing> or call 866.922.5690.

About American Sentinel University

American Sentinel University delivers accredited online degree programs in [nursing](#) ([BSN](#), [MSN](#), and [DNP](#)) and [healthcare management](#) ([MBA Healthcare](#), [M.S. Information Systems Management](#), and [M.S. Business Intelligence and Analytics](#)). Its affordable, flexible bachelor's and master's nursing degree programs are accredited by the Commission for the Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), of One Dupont Circle, NW Suite 530, Washington, D.C., 20036. The DNP program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) of 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, Ga., 30326. The University is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission, DEAC, 1101 17th Street NW, Suite 808, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 234-5100, www.deac.org

In June 2016, the Higher Education Commission Board of Trustees voted to grant [American Sentinel University](#) the status of candidate for accreditation. Institutions seeking accreditation by HLC are required to complete a period of candidacy before being evaluated for full accreditation. To earn and maintain candidacy, American Sentinel must fully meet the Commission's Eligibility Requirements and Assumed Practices and demonstrate the capacity to meet all the Criteria for Accreditation within the candidacy period.

Please note, the MBA Healthcare Project-Based program is pending review for inclusion in the university's programs covered by the Higher Learning Commission designation of candidate for accreditation.

For required student consumer information, please visit www.americansentinel.edu/doe.

About the Colorado Hospital Association

The Colorado Hospital Association represents 100 member hospitals and health systems throughout

Colorado. The Colorado Hospital Association partners with its members to work towards health reform and performance improvement, and provides advocacy and representation at the state and federal level. Colorado hospitals and health systems are committed to providing coverage and access to safe, high-quality and affordable health care. In addition, Colorado hospitals have a tremendous impact on the state's economic stability and growth, contributing to nearly every community across the state with 72,000 employees statewide.

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