

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## **WRHS Foundation Awards 2005 Nursing Scholarships**

Batesville, Ark. – Stephanie Wade of Batesville is the 2005 recipient of the Bonnie J. Bernard LPN to RN Scholarship, according to Joanne Hinson, WRMC Director of Institutional Advancement. Wade is a Registered Nursing student at the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville and is currently working as a licensed practical nurse at White River Medical Center, an affiliate of White River Health System.

The scholarship, funded through the generosity of Dick Bernard and his late wife Bonnie, is awarded each year to a licensed practical nurse that is furthering her/his education in nursing. The scholarship is important because of the growing demand for qualified healthcare providers, especially nurses. Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the scholarship eases the financial burden for the student and their family.

“Bonnie was not only a great nurse, but she was a friend and mentor to her co-workers. She always encouraged others to pursue their educational and career goals and she used her personal resources to give others that opportunity,” said Hinson.

The Foundation awarded three additional nursing scholarships in memory of Bernard and Madelyn Pierce funded by their friends and family. Pierce worked as an LPN in the Surgery/Endoscopy Lab from the hospital’s opening in 1976 until her retirement 25 years later, just before her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Georgia Phillips of Drasco, Heather McClanahan of Mountain View and Debra Vaulner of Saffell are the recipients of the three memorial scholarships. All are students at the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville and are employed at White River Medical Center.

The White River Health System Foundation administers the scholarships. The Foundation was established in 1993 to stimulate involvement and financial support through charitable giving to patient care, capital improvements and educational programs at facilities within the health system. Foundation programs include funding for capital

improvements, medical equipment and technology, and continuing education and scholarships. Anyone interested in supporting the WRHS Foundation should contact Hinson at 870-612-6033 or by E-mail, [jhinson@wrmc.com](mailto:jhinson@wrmc.com).