



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **RNs receive South Carolina's highest nursing honor**

*(Anderson, S.C. – April 25, 2012)* – Three AnMed Health nurses were recently recognized among the state's best. Nedra Brown, surgery nurse manager; Susanna Merriman, a registered nurse at AnMed Health Pediatric Associates; and Laura Saylors, AnMed Health's palliative care coordinator; are among the recipients of the 2012 Palmetto Gold Award.

The Palmetto Gold Nurse Recognition and Scholarship Program is South Carolina's only statewide recognition program for nurses from all practice settings. Palmetto Gold selects the top 100 nurses from those who have been nominated to honor during a formal awards ceremony. With more than 45,000 licensed nurses in South Carolina, it is an honor to be selected as a Palmetto Gold recipient. These nurses have demonstrated excellence in practice and commitment to the profession and have earned the respect of their colleagues and peers.

"Each of these nurses has made a tremendous difference in the lives of their patients, co-workers and neighbors," said Tina Jury, AnMed Health's chief nursing officer. "They are shining examples of what it means to blend the art of caring with the science of medicine, and we couldn't be more proud of them."

The Palmetto Gold Nurse Recognition and Scholarship program is a subcommittee of the South Carolina Nurses Foundation. The program started in January 2002 with a meeting of nurse leaders. Their goal was to form a statewide nursing recognition program that showcases nurses' contributions to patient care and raises scholarship fund for students pursuing an RN. The first Palmetto Gold Gala raised enough money to award a \$1,000 scholarship to each of the state's 23 approved registered nursing programs. To date, more than \$170,000 in nursing scholarships have been awarded and an endowment was established that now exceeds \$100,000.

The 2012 Palmetto Gold Gala was held April 21, 2012 at the Columbia Convention Center. More information about Palmetto Gold is available online at [www.scpalmettogold.org](http://www.scpalmettogold.org).

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