



ECUMEN RECEIVES INNOVATION AWARD FOR SENIOR CARE EXCELLENCE

SAINT PAUL – (Feb 13, 2019) – Ecumen recently received a Stars Among Us Innovation Award from LeadingAge Minnesota for its Senior Care Excellence program that is deepening partnerships between nursing facility in colleges across the state and the aging services field.

“The Innovation Award honors programs that transform and enhance the experience of aging,” said Gayle Kvenvold, President and CEO, LeadingAge Minnesota. “With a rapidly growing aging population in Minnesota, Ecumen recognized a need to bring a more in-depth perspective of the aging services field into college nursing programs that have focused almost exclusively on acute care training. The Senior Care Excellence program is shaping the future of aging services by breaking down stereotypes, winning hearts and minds, and improving the quality and accessibility of care for Minnesota’s seniors across the state.”

The Senior Care Excellence program grew out of the Ecumen Scholars program, which provides fellowships, internships and clinical rotations at Ecumen sites to more than 500 students in the aging services field. During that program, Ecumen learned from college faculty that more training was needed for instructors in long-term care. This desire came at a time when more and more nurses will have considerable interactions with seniors no matter where they work due to the state’s rapidly-growing aging population.

Ecumen partnered with nursing faculty statewide and with Minnesota State Mankato’s School of Nursing to design Senior Care Excellence: Enhancing Your Clinical Toolbox – Best Practices in Geriatric Care for Faculty in Transitional Care/Long Term Care. The session workshops, conducted by Minnesota State nursing faculty and Ecumen nursing staff, helped educators refresh their knowledge and skills in aging services and bring current best practices in geriatrics into their classrooms and classroom settings.

Fourteen faculty participants from nine nursing programs participating in the first workshop. Plans are now in the works to provide additional workshops and increase on-going partnerships for clinical rotations in aging service settings.

“Changing demographics and economic realities of healthcare delivery mean that much of the growth in nursing jobs will be outside the hospital setting. This collaboration represents innovation in forward planning,” said Brett Anderson, Vice President of Nursing Services, Ecumen. “Positive experiences during clinical rotation and confident, quality input on geriatric topics are necessary to attract graduates to this growing field. How nursing faculty present our industry to students is pivotal. We strongly believe that partnering with faculty today will lead to student nurses choosing our industry and helping all providers deliver quality resident care in the future.”

About LeadingAge Minnesota

Driven to transform and enhance the experience of aging, LeadingAge Minnesota works alongside its members, caregivers, advocates and consumers to collectively shape the future of aging services and ensure older adults in every community live with dignity, meaning and purpose. Together with more than 60,000 caregivers, LeadingAge Minnesota members provide quality services and supports to nearly 70,000 older adults every day in independent senior housing, assisted living communities, adult day, in-home care and skilled nursing facilities.

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