TWELFTH ANNUAL NIGHTINGALA

PRESENTED BY

VICTORIA NIEDERHAUSER DRPH, RN, FAAN
DEAN, COLLEGE OF NURSING

LIVESTREAM EVENT FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
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Our Heartfelt Thanks
SILENT AUCTION
Opens Friday, November 13, at 8 a.m.

LIVE AUCTION
Opens Tuesday, November 17, at 8 a.m.

LIVESTREAM EVENT PROGRAM
Friday, November 20, at 7 p.m.

WELCOME
Donde Plowman, Chancellor

DEAN’S OPENING REMARKS
Victoria Niederhauser

LIVE AUCTION & FUND-A-CASE
Halie Behr

VOLUNTEER NURSING CHAMPION AWARD
Janell Cecil

DR. SYLVIA E. HART DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Robin Smith

CLOSING MESSAGE FROM THE AUCTIONEER
Halie Behr

SURPRISE GUEST PERFORMANCE

Silent Auction closes on November 22, at 12:00 p.m.
THE 2020 RECIPIENT of the Volunteer Nursing Champion award is Janell Cecil. This award recognizes an individual who is committed to improving health care and has made significant contributions to the nursing profession and an impact on the community.

Cecil received her BSN from Webster University in 1984 and her MSN from the University of Missouri in 1997. She began her nursing career at Saint Luke’s Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, where she held several positions, including specialty line manager for women and children, clinical director for women’s services, assistant patient care manager, and clinical nurse.

Cecil continued her career at Baptist Memorial Healthcare Corporation in Memphis, where she served as the system service line administrator for women and children’s services from 1995 to 2002. She then joined the UT Medical Center staff, serving as vice president of women and children’s services for six years. Cecil was named a senior vice president at UTMC in 2008, becoming the first woman to ever hold the position. The promotion came a year after she was also named chief nursing officer, a role she held concurrently with her other responsibilities until her retirement earlier this year.

Cecil’s professional accomplishments include leading UTMC to obtain Magnet designation in 2011 and redesignation in 2016. She also led UTMC’s journey to earn the Level 4 Excellence Award from the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence, a goal that was achieved in 2016. Cecil was appointed to the Tennessee Board of Nursing in 2014 and reappointed in 2018. She currently serves on the Tennessee Hospital Association’s Council on Governmental Relations on behalf of the Tennessee Organization of Nurse Executives.

In her role as chief nursing officer at UTMC, Cecil was a strong supporter of, and collaborator with, the College of Nursing. Several initiatives launched under her leadership have strengthened the academic–practice partnership between the two institutions. Joint research and evidenced-based practice teams have worked together to examine better ways to provide nursing care that improves patient outcomes. The college has worked with UTMC to establish the Precious Prints Project, which provides a keepsake silver fingerprint charm to parents who lose a child.

Cecil has served on the college’s Professional Advisory Council, helping to inform academic nursing strategic direction from a practice perspective. When UTMC decided to begin a nurse residency program, she sought the advice and expertise of UT’s nursing faculty.

Under Cecil’s leadership, the partnership between the college and UTMC has grown to become a win-win relationship—a direct reflection of her open communication and collaborative leadership style.
Robin Smith

This Year’s Recipient of the Dr. Sylvia E. Hart Distinguished Alumni Award is Robin Smith, a longtime leader in her community and the health care field.

Smith currently serves as the representative for Tennessee House District 26, which includes parts of Chattanooga and Hamilton Counties. She has risen quickly among her colleagues to lead, first as chair of the Subcommittee on Life and Health Insurance and then as chair of the full House Insurance Committee. She has sponsored and supported legislation including the Tennessee Right to Shop Act, providing pricing transparency for patients; a proposal to permit telemedicine for existing Tennessee health care clinicians with established patients to increase access and improve outcomes; proposals to stop the “fail first” approach to prescription drug access used by insurance companies in patients with advanced cancer; and a bill to ensure that patients’ out-of-pocket costs for prescription medicines reflect pharmaceutical manufacturer rebates and not the list or highest price.

Smith’s devotion to patients comes from her education, training, and practice as a nurse and from her childhood fight with asthma. She graduated in 1985 and immediately began work at the renowned Cardiac Medicine/Transplant Program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital, where she worked with critically ill patients, participated in clinical research trials, and served as part of a health team that ushered transplant patients to surgery.

Smith launched her consulting and project management firm, Rivers Edge Alliance, in 2005 and continued her education in the Advanced Project Management Program at Stanford University’s Center for Professional Development, graduating in 2008. Her portfolio of professional services includes professional and technical writing, strategic planning and business development, and government affairs and policy analysis.

Smith lives in Hixson, Tennessee, with her husband of almost 34 years, Scott. They have two grown children—Callie, who lives in Nashville, and Caleb, who resides in Johnson City. Smith serves the College of Nursing as a member of both the Nursing Advisory Board and the Alumni Committee.
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for your gifts to the 2019 NightinGala. Thanks to your generosity we were able to award more than 20 scholarships to our students.
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