

<b>ELNEC: End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium News Release for Participants of ELNEC</b>
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**“End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium”**

Nurses spend more time with patients who are facing the end of life than any other member of the health care team. Yet, studies have shown that many nurses feel inadequately prepared to provide the comprehensive care so important at the end of life.

**Cheryl Parsons, RN LNHA** recently attended a national ELNEC-Core “Train the Trainers” course. She was sponsored by Missouri Association of Nursing Home Administrators. This two day course on end-of-life care was held in **San Antonio, Texas**. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and City of Hope (COH) had originally received a 3 ½ year grant (2000-2003) from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to develop and help implement End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC-Core). This program entitled ELNEC-Core is for nurses who provide/conduct continuing education courses in specialty areas such as oncology, hospice, nurse educators and continuing education providers. This project is led by Betty R. Ferrell, RN, PhD, FAAN, FPCN (COH) as the principal investigator.

**Cheryl Parsons** was one of 47 nurses from across the United States to attend this training program. The principal goal of the training program is to provide nursing continuing education providers with information on end-of-life/palliative care and resources to integrate end-of-life/palliative care content into their in-service programs or courses. Course content was presented in several participatory formats including lecture, open forum discussion, small group activities, and training sessions.

The training program was conducted by a distinguished faculty of researchers, educators, authors, and leaders in the field of palliative care. Topic areas included nursing care at the end of life/palliative care; pain and symptom assessment and management; cultural considerations; ethical issues; communication; loss, grief and bereavement; final hours of life; and achieving quality care at the end of life.

Cheryl joins only six other nurses in the state who have achieved this certification and she can now train other trainers in the state of Missouri to provide improved palliative or end of life care. She can also train surveyors, clergy, acute care facilities, hospice providers and nursing home staff.