

Encouraging, helpful, kind, caring, involved, incredible, thoughtful, mindful, dedicated and exceptional are just a few of the adjectives used by students to describe Dr. Ann Hernandez. It's not surprising, then, that Ann was nominated for and selected as one of the University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy's 2022-23 Preceptors of the Year.

Ann is a pharmacist and preceptor at the Banner Sterling Regional Medical Center in Sterling, CO. She takes P2 students for their Intro to Hospital Pharmacy rotations and P4 students for their Advanced Institutional rotations. Students at her site get the opportunity to work with patients in ER, ICU, MDSG, BS, outpatient and oncology settings. They receive a well-rounded experience, as they are able to help with warfarin and vancomycin dosing, assessing renal function and medication profiles, counseling upon discharge medications, compounding sterile products, responding to codes, attending rounds, and so much more.

Before working at Banner Sterling Regional Medical Center, Ann started her career working as a staff pharmacist for Walgreens for four years. During pharmacy school at the University of Colorado, Ann found hospital pharmacy boring. Once she starting taking students on rotation in the hospital setting she did not want that same experience for her students. Ann has students share in all of the experiences she has as a pharmacist to get them engaged and excited about hospital pharmacy. She also allows her students the opportunity to pursue areas of interest, while helping them find the areas they need to work on and develop. Students find this approach to learning highly effective and helps them feel empowered to embrace the learning opportunities she provides them.

Students find that Ann's approach to teaching, which is allowing students to feel that they are truly working at the hospital while taking opportunities to explain what she, and other pharmacists are doing, and why they are doing it, highly valuable. Students who nominated her stated she made them feel very comfortable and not afraid to ask questions. They were grateful for the time she took out of her day to help them experience learning opportunities. They also appreciated that she would have them routinely evaluate their comfort zones and try to expand outside of those comfort zones. If students did make mistakes, they liked how she quickly corrected them and encouraged them to prevent those mistakes from happening again by providing guided questions and allowing them to reflect on how to avoid the same mistake in the future.

Another common theme found in student nominations is the effort Ann puts into getting to know them on a personal level. She consciously makes an effort to get to know her students starting on day one, while also allowing them to get to know her, too. Students commented they felt valued as a student and as a pharmacist, which fostered a great deal of confidence and desire to be the best pharmacist possible.

Ann likes to share one piece of advice with her students that she received from one of her professors. That is, once you graduate pharmacy school you will not remember everything, but

if you know how to look it up you will be just fine! Ann thinks this is great advice for graduating students who might feel overwhelmed once they start a new job. She has certainly found it to be good advice that is very true.

The University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy is grateful to Ann for her dedication not only to her students but also to the profession of pharmacy. Ann's father has been a community pharmacist for 51 years, and still works part-time for Walmart. Our hope is that Ann also has a long career as a pharmacist and preceptor, so that students can continue to learn and grow from her for many years to come.