



**Connecticut
Children's
MEDICAL CENTER**

Small Talk

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PICU Nurses Win National Award

By Karen A. Zott, RN

What is the best thing about the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Connecticut Children's Medical Center?

Ask a new nursing graduate who is training in the PICU, and they may say the preceptors are the best. Ask the patients or families and they may answer that the feeling of caring in the PICU makes their stay tolerable. This week, both the strength of the preceptor program and the aspects of caring in the PICU were rewarded.

Diane Kreiger and Tara Wesoloskie, RNs in the PICU, each received a Circle of Excellence award from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. Only eight nurses in the country are receiving



NURSING AT ITS BEST: PICU nurses Diane Kreiger (left) and Tara Wesoloskie each recently received a Circle of Excellence award from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

this honor out of 65,000 nurses who belong to AACN. Diane was honored for her excellence in leadership and precepting, and Tara received her award for excellence in caring. The announcement was made last week after six months of deliberation; hundreds of nurses throughout the United States were nominated. Diane is one of three nurses who were honored in her category, and Tara was one of five nurses who won an

award for caring.

The Circle of Excellence awards are sponsored by the AACN and their health care industry partners. The award is given to those nurses nationwide who

have made an exemplary contribution to health care. The award recognizes "contributions and achievements that exemplify AACN's mission, vision and ethic of care and applauds excellence."

As far as we know Diane and Tara are the only nurses from the same hospital to be honored and Connecticut Children's Medical Center is the only children's hospital represented.

Diane and Tara will be traveling to Orlando, Florida in May for AACN's annual National Teaching Institute and Critical Care Exposition to receive their prestigious awards.

All of us in the PICU applaud Diane and Tara for their wonderful achievement; we are so proud to be working with you!