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For Immediate Release

MU Sinclair School of Nursing instructor receives national Leader of Leaders award

Columbia, Mo. — MU Sinclair School of Nursing instructor Donna Otto is the 2010 recipient of the National Student Nurses Association’ (NSNA) Leader of Leaders award.

Sponsored by science and health information publisher Elsevier, the award is presented to an outstanding dean, faculty advisor or state consultant who demonstrates distinguished support and service to nursing students.

Otto received an expense-paid trip to the 2010 NSNA annual convention in Orlando, Fla. and was presented with the award at the plenary session on April 8, 2010.

MU Student Nurses Association (SNA) president Becky Arand and vice-president Amanda Duessel nominated Otto for the award.

"Words cannot do justice to the impact that Donna Otto has had on our lives professionally, as a Student Nurses Association advisor, and personally, as an influential mentor. Over the last three years, she has shown us guidance, patience, and an incredible amount of support in all of the endeavors we have pursued,” they wrote. “Finding a great mentor is something that not every student is able to do. It is difficult to find someone who can understand you, motivate you, and challenge you. Not everyone has these qualities. But we firmly believe Donna Otto not only exhibits these qualities, but she sets the standards in professional leadership and excellence. She is a talented nurse, teacher, leader and for us personally, a mentor.”

Otto has been employed with the university since 1972. She joined the Sinclair School of Nursing faculty in 2001 and teaches in the School’s RN-BSN option. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she is a project coordinator for TigerPlace, the School’s aging-in-place program, and director of nursing alumni relations.