



August 11th, 2016

Prize-winning nurse

Nurse Tracy Morris has been awarded a prestigious prize for excellence in her nursing studies.

Miss Morris, who is a South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust community staff nurse based at Grindon Lane Primary Care Centre, Sunderland, was a recipient of the Heath Award, presented annually to nursing and midwifery students graduating from Northumbria University who have excelled in both practice and theory. She has followed in the footsteps of Adrian Anim, a community nurse in the Trust's learning disability service who was a Heath Award recipient in 2015.

Miss Morris, of Houghton-le-Spring, said: "It was an honour just to be considered and I certainly didn't expect to win so it was lovely surprise."

As a young girl she dreamt of becoming a nurse but on leaving school she worked as a secretary and then in retail. She was nearly 30 when she decided to fulfil her long-held ambition and she enrolled at Shiney Row College to get the necessary qualifications to go on the Adult Nursing course at Northumbria University, which she began in 2012. Within months of graduating in September 2015, she landed her current job.

She said: "I am so glad I finally made it. I knew I wanted to be in community nursing, which gives you that extra time to spend with patients, and I love my job."

Dr Bob Brown, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's Executive Director, Nursing and Patient Safety, said: "I am delighted for Tracy who obviously excelled in her studies and is now putting all the knowledge she gained to good use caring for her patients."

The Heath Award is named in honour of South Shields-born George Yeoman Heath, the distinguished President of the College of Medicine and Professor of Surgery in Newcastle in the 19th century. Upon his death in 1892, he bequeathed money to support a number of areas of healthcare in Newcastle, including an award for the best nurse in each year of training. The first award was made in 1906. It was discontinued in 1975 following reorganisation within the NHS but was re-established in 1993 and the eligibility now extends to all pre-registration nursing and midwifery students graduating in a particular academic year from Northumbria University.

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Pictured above: Community staff nurse Tracy Morris

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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