

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Harris Selected as Item Writer for Nursing Examination



Stanley Harris

More than 25 years ago, Stanley Harris, assistant professor of Nursing at SC State University, had a dream of one day writing for the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX), an examination for the licensing of nurses in the United States. Recently, Harris' dream became reality when he was selected as an item writer by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN).

As item writer, Harris was responsible for writing comprehensive test questions for NCLEX, which is designed to test the knowledge, skills and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry-level.

Prior to this much anticipated opportunity, Harris found himself applying to become an item writer for the past six years, having to update his

application every two years. Two months after being selected, Harris was required to attend a four-day seminar in Chicago, Ill. where each member of his team was given a template and required to write five exam questions per day. Additionally, each question had to be referenced via books and periodicals provided by NCSBN. Harris exceeded the amount of required questions, and produced a total of 45 questions by the end of the seminar. "Being surrounded by peers and finally realizing a dream come true was amazing," exclaimed Harris. "I would always say I wanted to write questions for the nursing licensure exam, even when I was in school taking it myself, but to finally have this opportunity is a great blessing."

"Once I told my stu-

dents about what it entails to be an item writer, they were very excited. They said it was a good feeling to have their professor serve on such a prestigious committee," says Harris.

In January 2008, Harris arrived at SC State University, and within five months was named Professor of the Year by his peers. Harris has taught nursing courses at several educational institutions to include: Kaylim Career Center in Atlanta, Ga.; Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga.; Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University in Atlanta, Ga.; Gordon College in Barnesville, Ga.; Georgia State University in Atlanta, Ga. and Clayton State University in Morrow, Ga.

Harris earned his practical nursing diploma from Baldwin Vocational School of Practical Nursing in Milledgeville, Ga. He later went on to obtain his bachelor's degree in nursing from Albany State University in Albany, Ga. and his master's degree in nursing from Georgia State University in Atlanta, Ga.

In December 2010, he will obtain his Doctor of Education degree in educational leadership from the University of Phoenix in Glendale, Ariz.

Harris holds professional nursing licenses in the states of Georgia, South Carolina and New York. He is also a certified advance and basic cardiac life support instructor for the American Heart Association.

United Way Earns Top Rating for Sound Fiscal Management



United Way of the Coastal Empire has earned Charity Navigator's highest level four-star rating for sound fiscal management, for the second consecutive year.

Charity Navigator, the nation's premier independent charity evaluator, works to advance a more efficient and responsive philanthropic marketplace by evaluating the financial health of over 5,500 of America's largest charities.

"We are proud to once again receive such a favorable review of our efficiency and fiscal management practices," said Gregg Schroeder, President and CEO of United Way of the Coastal Empire.

"Our ability to achieve this recognition is the result of the hard work and dedication of our board of directors, volunteers, staff and the generosity of our donors."

Only 21% of the charities evaluated by Charity Navigator have received at least two consecutive four-star evaluations. This rating indicates that United Way of the Coastal Empire consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way and outperforms most other charities in America. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator differentiates United Way of the Coastal Empire from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their

trust.

United Way's overall four star rating was based on Organizational Efficiency and Organizational Capacity. Charity Navigator determines Organizational Efficiency by evaluating fundraising efficiency, fundraising expenses, program expenses and administration expenses. United Way received an overall efficiency rating of 38.99 out of a possible 40 for a four star efficiency rating.

Charitable Navigator determines Organizational Capacity by examining primary revenue growth, program expenses growth and working capital ratio. United Way received an overall capacity rating of 25 out of 30 for a four star capacity rating.

To view United Way's complete Charity Navigator profile, please visit www.charitynavigator.org.

The mission of United Way is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities. United Way of the Coastal Empire conducts an annual community-wide fundraising campaign and invests donor contributions in community programs and services within four issue areas: Education and Youth Development, Health and Wellness, Economic Independence, and Basic Human Needs. United Way serves Bryan, Chatham, Effingham and Liberty counties.

United Way of the Coastal Empire is a volunteer driven organization. A broad and diverse base of volunteers carefully review organization requests for funding, paying special attention to management, program delivery and outcomes accountability to ensure that your donations through the Community Fund are truly making a difference.

For further information, please visit www.uwce.org

BOB BRYANT
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