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American Academy of Nursing Designates Cheryl Krause-Parello an Academy Edge Runner for Canines Providing Assistance to Wounded Warriors (C-P.A.W.W.)

Nurse-Designed Health Initiative Uses Human-Animal Bond to Provide Care to Veterans

Washington, D.C. (December 15, 2017) — The American Academy of Nursing today recognizes Cheryl Krause-Parello, PhD, RN, FAAN, as an Academy Edge Runner for her program, Canines Providing Assistance to Wounded Warriors (C-P.A.W.W.). Edge Runners are nurses who have designed innovative models of care or interventions which improve health, impact cost and influence policy.

Many invisible wounds of war such as depression, social disconnectedness, and suicidal ideation impair the health and well-being of veterans. Tragically, an estimated 20 veterans die each day as a result of suicide. Dr. Krause-Parello founded C-P.A.W.W. to focus attention on how nurses and other health providers may use the human-animal bond to provide quality care to veterans and their families. C-P.A.W.W. builds community partnerships and investigates therapeutic canine interventions which positively influence health outcomes.

“The Academy commends Dr. Krause-Parello for focusing research on the unmet health needs of our veterans and service members,” said Academy President Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FACHE, FAAN. “For a population that voluntarily placed themselves in harms-way on behalf of their country, it is particularly rewarding that C-P.A.W.W.’s innovative, evidence-based, nurse-designed program alleviates symptoms caused by military service through a low-risk, non-invasive animal assisted intervention.”

One current C-P.A.W.W. research project demonstrates that when veterans with PTSD are provided a service dog, they are able to decrease or stop their psychotropic medications, reducing the undesirable side effects associated with these drugs. The \$24,000 cost for a five-day inpatient hospitalization to treat PTSD compared to the \$4,000 per year cost to care for a service dog, offers another measure of success for Dr. Krause-Parello’s C-P.A.W.W. program.

“It is twice the honor to be designated an Academy Edge Runner while improving veteran health with C-P.A.W.W.,” stated Cheryl Krause-Parello, an associate professor at the University of Colorado College of Nursing. “Like the Academy, I am committed to addressing the needs of veterans and their families through evidence-based, innovative models of care and interventions. Our veterans deserve no less.”

[An Edge Runner profile of the C-P.A.W.W. program is available here.](#)

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The American Academy of Nursing (www.AANnet.org) serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. The Academy’s more than 2,500 fellows are nursing’s most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, and research. They have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to nursing and healthcare.

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