

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE— November 9, 2015

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Donna DiMartino, RN, MSN, CHPN, Hospice and Palliative Care Director at Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association (SVNA), Salisbury, CT, was honored Nov. 5 with the Judith Hriceniak Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership by the Connecticut Association of Home Care and Hospice at their annual conference in Hartford, CT.

The Hriceniak Award is the Association's highest honor and is presented to an RN who has demonstrated excellence in nursing leadership.

To receive the Hriceniak Award, a nursing supervisor or CEO must serve as a visionary role model in the development and implementation of innovative projects that positively affect the ever-changing home care and hospice environment.

The recipient also must show creativity, high energy and inspires others by creating an environment that fosters staff development and life-long learning. Award recipients must achieve a high level of clinical expertise and collaborate with groups or individuals within the community.

DiMartino, who has led SVNA's hospice & palliative care program for the last three years, also volunteers with Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association, serves as a board member for the Tabor Foundation and is an HPNA approved educator.

DiMartino's presence not just within SVNA, but within the local community and in the national hospice community along with her clinical expertise and knowledge earned her the distinguished Judith Hriceniak Award.