

2023 CATHERINE MCAULEY AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Jolene Runkel, S'79, MSN, ARNP

ALUMNA



Jolene Runkel always knew nursing would be her future. At the age of 16, Jolene worked in a nursing home in Greenfield, Iowa. In 1979, she graduated from Mercy College of Health Sciences with her diploma in nursing before beginning work at Mercy Medical Center.

Jolene returned to Mercy College in 2003 to get her Bachelor of Science in Nursing before going on to earn

her Master of Science in Nursing from Creighton University in 2005. She has been working for Iowa Heart for the last 36 years and has regularly served as a preceptor for Mercy College nursing students. Jolene has cared for thousands of patients with heart failure and has guest lectured at Mercy College several times on the topic.

Outside of her impressive nursing career, Jolene is a master gardener and has devoted her time to several community and professional organizations. Jolene enjoys spending time with her husband, three children, and four grandchildren, as well as her fellow Class of 1979 graduates, with whom she still gathers annually.

Pictured above: Mercy College President Adreain Henry, OD, EdD; Jolene Runkel, MSN, ARNP (S'79); and Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Philanthropy, Community Engagement Melanie Campbell, MBA.