

## 2016 Sandy Purl Mentorship Scholarship Recipient

Mary Ellyn Witt RN, MS, AOCN®  
Family Liaison for Sandy Purl Scholarship Fund



The 2016 ONS Leadership Conference was held in Pittsburgh July 29 – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. This conference has a special significance for our chapter. Leadership Conference recognizes the recipient of the Sandy Purl Mentorship Scholarship.

Sandy Purl was a beloved member of our CCONS Chapter. After her unexpected death in 2010, the family requested that memorial donations be given to CCONS. The outpouring of money was overwhelming. We turned to the Oncology Nursing Foundation to guide us with the establishment of a scholarship in her memory. Within 8 months, family, friends, and colleagues raised over \$35,000.00. The Sandy Purl Mentorship Scholarship was established in 2011.

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide \$1000.00 per year to allow an additional chapter member to attend Leadership Conference. This lifetime scholarship supports Sandy's legacy and her love of oncology nursing and mentorship.

The 2016 recipient was Tara Hinnenkamp RN, OCN®. She is the treasurer of the West Central Minnesota Chapter. Tara now has the bragging rights as the sixth recipient of this mentorship scholarship. She is pictured below in the middle next to Debbie Walker, President of the ONS Foundation on the left, and Carol Knop, CCONS DAL on the right.

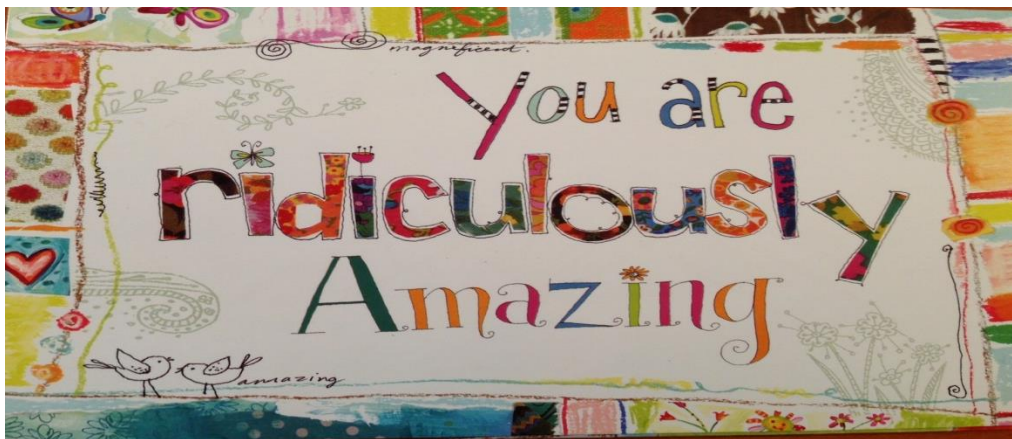
The scholarship process includes a short essay on your goals for attending the Leadership Conference. The following is an excerpt from Tara's application:

**“When starting something new, I think it is crucial to jump right in and get my feet wet from the beginning. The more a person immerses themselves in an organization or event, the more the person can learn, grow, and make a difference. That is why I decided to run for the Treasurer position for the West Central Minnesota Oncology Nursing Society chapter; and much to my surprise, I got nominated! Since I am new to this organization and very new to the Treasurer role, I have big goals for the Leadership weekend! I want to learn all the in's and out's that this Treasurer position entails. I want to expand my knowledge on budget setting for our chapter and implement more budget planning practices/policies. Our chapter serves a large population; however, our attendance rates remain lower than ideal. I am hoping to get some new ideas to spur membership and better serve the community of nurses we cover. I also think our organization can make a big impact to those fighting cancer in the community. I would like to learn about better ways to serve patients and caregivers through advocacy, health promotion and raising awareness on cancer prevention and early detection. Overall, attending the ONS Leadership weekend will help me grow, become a stronger leader within my chapter and a better oncology nurse. Furthermore, I hope this opportunity provides change beyond me to positively impact my local chapter and the community we serve.”**



Congratulations to Tara and thanks to all who made this Sandy Purl Mentorship Scholarship a reality.

Tara sent the following Thank You card to CCONS. This thank you note and a copy of this article will be given to the Purl Family.



Carol & the Chicago ONS Chapter,  
Thank you incredibly much for the opportunity to attend the 2016 Leadership weekend thro the Sandy Purl Mentuship Scholarship!!  
I feel deeply humbled & will be forever grateful. I hope to continue to support the mission of Sandy Purl throughout my oncology career. Leadership weekend further reinforced why I became an oncology nurse. It also has set a new fire for my work in my local West Central MN chapter. With the information learned, I am ~~am~~ hoping to re-energize current members, provide a more meaningful membership experience & find new ways to give back to our local community. Thank you for all that you do everyday & thank you for the Scholarship! Carol, it was a pleasure to meet you in Pittsburgh & I hope our worlds intersect again.

Jana Hinnenkamp  
West Central MN ONS  
taraj4288@gmail.com