



# NEWS RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Will Ackerman -- Public Affairs Officer  
VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System  
4101 Woolworth Avenue (00P)  
Omaha, NE 68105  
Office: (402) 995-4719  
Cell: (402) 332-6780  
E-mail: [William.Ackerman@va.gov](mailto:William.Ackerman@va.gov)  
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/VANWIHCS>  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NebraskalowaVA](http://www.facebook.com/NebraskalowaVA)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 23, 2012

## Grand Island VA Nurse Earns Doctoral Degree

**OMAHA**, Neb. — A nurse at the Department of Veterans Affairs Community Living Center in Grand Island, Neb., was awarded a doctor of nursing practice degree May 11.

LaVonne Johnson, DNP, APRN FNP-C, was awarded the degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

During the ceremonial activities, she received the poster presentation award from Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing, Iota Chapter, Vanderbilt University for her scholarly project work.

In dedication of her work to identify veterans' long-term goals of care to maximize their quality of life, her scholarly project was directed towards the "Development of a Clinical Protocol to Assess the Need for Early Palliative Care Intervention in Veterans Classified as Polytrauma, Seriously Injured or Ill".

The doctor of nursing practice degree integrates advanced nursing clinical practice with evidence-based knowledge to improve health care outcomes.

Johnson graduated from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., in 2003 with a Master of Science in Nursing. She is certified through the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners as a family nurse practitioner.

Johnson has been a registered nurse for 35 years. She has more than 17 years of professional nursing service at the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs in Germany, Maryland, Montana and Nebraska.

Johnson is married to a former U.S. Army officer, who is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

###