Dr. Margaret Flinter, a “double Husky” alumna (BS and PhD) of the UConn School of Nursing, was awarded the Carolyn Ladd Widmer Outstanding Alumni Award for Leadership in Nursing at the Reflection of Excellence ceremony this year. She is currently the senior vice president and clinical director of the Community Health Center, Inc. and is a family nurse practitioner by profession. Dean Regina Cusson described Flinter as “…the latest in a succession of UConn Nursing’s distinguished alumni leaders.” Flinter exemplifies the range of possibilities for advanced practice in nursing and innovation.

Flinter earned her bachelor’s degree in Nursing from the University of Connecticut, earned her master’s degree from Yale University, and returned to the University of Connecticut to earn her doctoral degree.

Following her graduate training at Yale University, Flinter joined the Community Health Center in 1980 as a National Health Service Corps Scholar and CHC’s first nurse practitioner. Community Health Center, Inc. is a federally qualified health center serving 130,000 patients across Connecticut through its 200 primary care centers, school based health centers, and innovative practice settings. Flinter founded America’s first nurse practitioner residency program, which operates out of the Community Health Center. Since 1987, Flinter has held both clinical and administrative leadership roles in the organization.

In 2007, Flinter established the Weitzman Center for Innovation in Community Health and Primary Care as the “research and development” arm of CHC. The Weitzman Institute is the country’s first FQHC based research and development unit devoted to transforming primary care and training the next generation of primary care providers. Flinter is the director of the Weitzman Center.

In addition, Flinter serves as the national co-director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Primary Care Teams: Learning from Effective Ambulatory Practices. The “LEAP” project is currently in its third year of intense study of evolving workforce roles in primary care and transformational primary care practices in the United States.

A board-certified family nurse practitioner since 1980, Flinter has led the conceptual development and implementation of post-graduate residency training programs for new nurse practitioners committed to practice careers as primary care providers based on her pioneering work in developing the country’s first program at CHC in 2007. Flinter served as legislatively appointed co-chair of the HealthFirst Authority from 2007-2009 and of the Primary Care Access Authority from 2007-2011. These organizations are two of Connecticut’s major health reform bodies.

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Nurse Leader Margaret Flinter  

Flinter has gained recognition as the co-host of a weekly radio program *Conversations on Health Care*, which connects people with issues of health policy, reform, and innovation. She saw this program as an opportunity to raise the level of conversation among public health and healthcare. “Five years and hundreds of episodes later, we have had the opportunity to interview thought and action leaders around the country and in some cases, the world,” Flinter explains.

An RWJF Executive Nurse Fellow from 2002-2005, Flinter is also a fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Flinter’s interest in nursing grew as a desire to do something dynamic, stimulating, and something that had the potential to be transformative in people’s lives and communities. She states that she “hasn’t been disappointed.”

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