



For Immediate Release

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Creighton University Awards Sister Maurita Soukup with Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

[Omaha, Neb., May 18, 2019] Sister Maurita Soukup, RSM, R.N., M.S.N., Ph.D., received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Creighton University, located in Omaha, Neb., during its commencement ceremonies on Saturday morning, May 18.

Making the announcement, Creighton President Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, said this honorary degree recognizes Sister Maurita's tireless commitment to quality, compassionate healthcare delivery and education. A Sister of Mercy for 53 years, Sister Maurita currently serves as a health trustee and nurse consultant/researcher, and her work includes service on the boards of two regional health care systems, including CHIHealth.

"Sister Maurita brings extensive clinical experience to the CHI Health board, along with working knowledge of the best practices of health care systems across the region," Rev. Hendrickson said making the announcement in a letter to faculty and staff. "Her expertise is always offered through the lens of mission, keeping the board grounded in the sacred responsibility of caring for God's people in their moments of greatest joy and deepest vulnerability. Sister Maurita is a wonderful exemplar of the kind of healthcare professional Creighton strives to form, and we are honored to recognize her."

As a nurse consultant/researcher, Sister Maurita is a lead reviewer for the American Nurses Association Credential Center's Pathway to Excellence Program, and serves as vice-chair/secretary to the Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community's Health Ministry Council. Over her 55 years in health care ministry, she has been a major contributor to nursing textbooks and has written numerous articles in the area of critical care nursing, advanced nursing practice, research and an evidence-based practice model that has been accepted nationally to guide clinicians in the way they think and practice.

Reflecting on this honor, Sister Maurita said, "As a Sister of Mercy, my passion for nursing empowered a life ministry in care of the critically ill through clinical excellence, compassionate care, leadership and prayer. My academic preparation and clinical experience have offered rich opportunities in advancing nursing practice, shaping the way clinicians think and the way they practice. Ultimately, collaboration with colleagues offer meaningful contributions in patient outcomes, decision analysis, human values, information technology, a healthy work environment and professional accountability. I am blessed and filled with gratitude for the many wondrous ways the Gift of Mercy inspires students, families, colleagues, religious and leaders to carry forth Mercy as a sacred ministry in serving unmet needs of humanity, locally and globally."

A native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Sister Maurita earned her R.N. in 1964 at Mercy School of Nursing, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and a B.S. in biology in 1970 at Mount Mercy College in Cedar Rapids. She went on to earn her B.S.N. in 1973 from Marycrest College in Davenport, Iowa, a M.S.N. in cardiovascular clinical specialization in 1975 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and her D.N.Sc. in 1989 with a conversion to Ph.D. in 2006 from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

During the first 30 years of her ministry, she held critical care nursing positions at a number of hospitals in the Midwest. After earning her doctorate, she held nursing administration positions that included: serving as the Founding Director of the Eastern Iowa Health Institute at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa (1991-1995); Founding Director of the Center for Advanced Nursing Practice at Bryan LGH Medical Center in Lincoln, Nebraska (1995-2000); Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist at The Iowa Heart Hospital of Mercy Medical Center, in Des Moines, Iowa, (2000-2001); and as Vice President of The Iowa Heart Hospital at Mercy Medical Center, in Des Moines, Iowa, (2001-2008). She returned to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to assist in family care-giving of her mother until her death. During this time, she also undertook special health ministry projects during the formative period of the Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Regional Community and co-ministered to individuals and families during the Epic Flood of 2008.

Transitioning from nursing administration, she has served as a consultant and continued her research in critical care and advance practice nursing. She has been sought after by hospital boards for her expertise. Currently she serves as a trustee for: MercyOne-Mercy Medical Center Siouxland (Sioux City), Mercy Medical Center North Iowa (Mason City) and Mercy Hospital New Hampton, Iowa; Mercy Medical Center, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mercy College of Health Sciences, Des Moines, Iowa; and MercyOne IA/NE Trinity-Regional Health System, Des Moines, Iowa and CHI-Health NE/IA System, Omaha, NE. She is a member of the following professional associations: American Association of Critical Care Nurses, American Association of Nurse Executives; Sigma Theta Tau International; National Organization of Clinical Nurse Specialists, and Catholic Hospital Association.