

Airlift Northwest announces scholarships and grants at annual EMS conference

SEATTLE – October 20, 2008 – Airlift Northwest has announced the recipients of its annual scholarship and grant program. The presentations were made on Friday at the Airlift Northwest Emergency Medical Services Conference in Seattle.

In making the awards, Dr. Michael Copass, Medical Director for Airlift Northwest, said they are given to honor six staff members who lost their lives in the line of duty with the organization. He said the program is intended to provide assistance with training and education for others who are committed to emergency medical services.

The Airlift Northwest program has three components. Two awards of \$1,000 each are given in each category.

A scholarship program for nurses to be used for clinical education

- Sue Nelson, the assistant director of nursing at the Wrangell Medical Center, Wrangell, AK, will use her scholarship to provide advanced training for 11 of her nursing colleagues. The training will help meet the requirements for the facility to become a Level 4 trauma center.
- Taya Higgins, a nurse at the Orcas Medical Center, Orcas Island, WA, will attend a conference at the University of Washington School of Nursing that focuses on treating chronically ill patients.

A scholarship program for members of the emergency medical services community to be used for EMS-related education

- Julie Doggett, an EMT with the Sitka Volunteer Fire Department, Sitka, AK, will use her scholarship to help meet the cost of getting her nursing degree. As part of her program, she will work at the emergency department at Providence Medical Center in Anchorage.
- T. J. Bishop, an EMT with North Country Emergency Services, Clark County, WA, will use his scholarship to help meet the cost of attending the annual EMS Expo, a conference that focuses on new technology and research in the field of emergency medical response.

A grant program for hospitals and EMS, fire department or law enforcement agencies to improve safety practices or equipment related to working with air medical services

- Grays Harbor Fire District 5, Elma, WA, will use its award to purchase global positioning systems (GPS) to be used when emergency crews respond to remote locations.
- Forks Community Hospital, Forks, WA, also will purchase global positioning systems (GPS) for its ambulances.