

IM7 FACULTY



SPG 25 NURSES



The South Plains Great 25 and Texas Nurses Association District 18 select 25 nurses annually in our region that exemplify nursing excellence to be recognized as a SPG 25 Nurse. This award considers what each person has done to make improvements in nursing through patient care initiatives, volunteering within the community, and active involvement with the legislative process to improve the future of nursing. This is a big award to receive and very few have.

THE ONLY CSON FACULTY TEAM THAT ARE ALL SPG25 NURSES

MASTERS PONDER

Recipient of the Irene Wilson Award 2025

Hi, my name is Paula Ponder, and I've been a nurse for 47 years. Know that it's gone by quickly! I first graduated as a Licensed Vocational Nurse from South Plains College in 1978. I worked full-time while pursuing my Associate Degree in Nursing (South Plains College, 1981), my Bachelor of Science in Occupational Education (Wayland Baptist University, 2002), and my Master's of Nursing (Lubbock Christian University, 2007).

I started my nursing career in the Emergency Department, and spent time in Trauma Services, the Operating Room, an Occupational Medicine Clinic, and the Surgical Intensive Care Unit, but I *always* returned to the ED. I loved caring for patients, but I love teaching now! I enjoy sharing what I've seen and what I know, and I really love seeing those light-bulb moments when students make connections between theory and clinical. One of the greatest honors of my career was being recognized as a South Plains Great 25 Nurse in 2022.

I also love spending time with my four grandkids and three Maltese fur babies. I'm pretty crafty; I enjoy creating art with stained glass, crocheting, and audiobooks. I'm always learning and growing—right now I'm experimenting with resin! I enjoy all music from the 1970's...NO country music allowed.

DR. SPRADLING

I have dedicated nearly two decades to nursing, following graduation from CSON. With a diverse career path, I has built a robust foundation spanning various practice settings. My experience includes the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU), nursing leadership, acute care nursing education, organ and tissue donation, and prelicensure academia. This diverse exposure offers a unique advantage point on hospital operations and strategic initiatives in a complex health environment.

I hold a BSN from TTUHSC, an MSN from LCU, and a DNP from Post University. I am nationally certified with both the CCRN and NPD-BC credentials and have been widely published at both national and international levels. My contributions to nursing research and evidence-based practice have earned invitations to present at conferences locally, nationally, and internationally.

My commitment extends beyond the clinical and educational realms. I actively participated in community outreach and service projects, both locally and internationally, through global mission work. My dedication to nursing excellence has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Irene Wilson Nurse of the Year at CMC and the South Plains Great 25 Nurses honor.

Fueled by a passion for empowering and supporting others, I am dedicated to fostering growth and vitality within the nursing profession and beyond. I'm committed to enhancing educational excellence and functional achievement, with the ultimate goal of improving overall health and employability. Additionally, I have founded a health coaching business aimed at guiding clients to develop healthy lifestyle habits, live with purpose, and thrive amidst challenging environments.

Outside of my professional achievements, I am the proud mother of two young girls. I also tend to multiple farm animals and enjoy everything the great outdoors has to offer.

