



UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
OF EL PASO

Loss of a Friend and Associate

It saddens me greatly to share with you that UMC lost one of its greatest, most loyal and hardworking Associates yesterday with the passing of Gilmer Walker. Gilmer worked



Gilmer Walker

in the Health Information Management Department as a file clerk. Just about everyone knew Gilmer. Gilmer started working here Nov. 11, 1964, more than half a century ago.



His coworkers remember him as being a very hardworking Associate who remembered just about everything. Irene Nakay, who worked with Gilmer for 26 years, says he was a kind, beautiful person who loved everyone and that Gilmer was part of their family. She's right.



The early years of Gilmer's life as an Associate.

I remember when I saw Gilmer waiting for his ride home one day. I sat with Gilmer and got to know him until his ride came. It

Friday Letter

Jan. 23, 2015

By James N. Valenti

UMC President & CEO



did not take me long to realize how truly kindhearted Gilmer was, even in that short time I spent waiting and talking with him.

A kind, caring, beautiful person has left us. Gilmer, you were an inspiration to us all -- and we were all lucky to have known you.

Our People – Our Successes:

At UMC, we have some of the best and brightest Associates in the healthcare industry. They are passionate about their work.

They are attentive to the healing and other care needs of our patients. They are innovative in their approaches to unforeseen obstacles, and through it all they seem to be natural-born leaders and mentors to those around them.

We want to nurture, develop, and inspire these Associates toward achieving greater levels of leadership. This week, we identified many of these Associates.

I am pleased to announce the following Associates have been selected to participate in Leadership UMC 2015:

- **Claudia Acuna**
Clinical Coordinator - Endoscopy
- **Edna Alvarado**
Chief Clinical Dietician - Food Services

- **Joi Ballard**
Clinic Supervisor - Women's Health Clinics
- **Isabel Contreras**
Wound Care Supervisor – Rehabilitation Svcs.
- **Eliza Enriquez**
Supervisor Scheduling - NHC Scheduling
- **Marisela Flores**
Clinical Coordinator – Women's Surgical
- **Monica Gamboa**
Social Work Supervisor - Care Management
- **Pamela Gearn**
Clinical Coordinator - ED
- **Mary Harris-Reese**
Manager of Quality Resources - NHC Admin.
- **Mirna Ibarra**
Laboratory Manager - Lab
- **Raul Jara**
Clinical Project Manager - Respiratory Care
- **Eric Johansen**
Nurse Manager – ED
- **Christopher Morales**
Supervisor of Guest Relations - Guest Services
- **Norric Myrick**
Supervisor - EVS
- **Sandra Pineda**
Fiscal Support Coordinator - NHC Admin.
- **Luana Pinon**
Cytology Supervisor - Lab
- **Anthony Porter**
Security Supervisor - Guest Services
- **Maria Belen Reyes**
Clinical Coordinator - CVICU/Telemetry
- **Susana Salas**
Clinical Coordinator - Surgical/Ortho
- **Gloria Sanchez**
Manager - PFS
- **Cynthia Tamayo**
Supervisor of Enrollment Services - PFS
- **Adrian Vargas**
Supervisor - Respiratory Care
- **Gloria Vasquez**
Associate Relations Manager - HR
- **Cecilia Velasquez**
Clinical Coordinator - Mother Baby

OUR LEADERSHIP UMC PROGRAM is designed to ensure we have the most knowledgeable and motivated Associates able to usher in the next generation of management at our hospital. Please join me in congratulating them.

Your Health – Be the ‘Biggest Loser’

WHILE OUR LEADERSHIP UMC PROGRAM helps Associates improve professionally, another program here is helping Associates

improve their personal wellbeing. It is called the Biggest Loser Contest, and today marks its start for 2015. In the two previous years of the program, our Associates have lost a total of 1,365.7 pounds. There is an individual-loss category as well as a team-loss category in the contest. Challenge yourself. Challenge your fellow Associates to join you. Make 2015 the year that you forever lose those added pounds. For more information, how to weigh-in and take part, call Mark Ceglio at 521-0685.

Winter Weather Still Alive and Well

SOMETIMES THERE IS NOTHING LIKE making a snowball or just watching the snow accumulate over our desert landscape. Yesterday (Thursday) reminded us all that winter is settled in – for a while longer. While there were a few delays and minor inconveniences due to the snow and icy conditions, please remember to take extra precautions driving.



A New Lab At UMC Opens Jan. 30

As I had mentioned last week, the opening of our new Interventional Lab takes place on Friday, Jan. 30 at 10 a.m.

This new equipment further enhances and assists our Associates in caring for many brain, heart and circulatory issues.

RADIOLOGY, CARDIOLOGY, AND NEUROLOGY will all benefit from the new state-of-the-art equipment that allows our Associates to enter and treat complex cases through the circulatory system.

Flu Update:

WE CONTINUE to monitor the number of flu cases that present to our hospital. I am happy to report that we saw a marked decrease in the rate of reported cases this

week. I hope that trend continues. This week I reviewed our latest cases to date. During the 2014-2015 flu season thus far, we have seen 386 cases of the flu at UMC. Of those, 82 required hospitalization.

THE VACCINE IS AVAILABLE at any of our centers throughout the El Paso region (East, Ysleta, Fabens, Crossroads) by calling 790-5700 to set-up a convenient appointment. The centers are open after work until 8 p.m. but these slots fill fast so make an appointment today. For more information on a center nearest to you [click here](#).

Have a great weekend! - Jim



James N. Valenti, President & CEO
University Medical Center of El Paso
4815 Alameda
El Paso, Texas 79905
(915) 521-7602
jvalenti@umcelpaso.org

If you do not wish to receive this publication, please send an e-mail to the address above.