



Our surgeon the finest “fellow” around

Why is Dr. Deanna Huntwork getting her picture taken with men in goofy hats? Because she’s a Fellow — she’s been recognized by the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons for her commitment to her profession.

Dr. Huntwork recently traveled to California to be hooded (notice the mantle around her neck — that’s the hood) during a black tie ceremony to honor her pursuit of excellence.

As for excellence, she doesn’t need a hood to prove her worth here at Lincoln Hospital. Her commitment to her patients is obvious in her customer service.

“That’s my number one priority,” she says. “The customer is #1, period — end of story.” But how does she show that on a daily basis? “By making my patients comfortable.”

Not only is she available and accessible, but when a patient comes to see her, she always meets them with their clothes on first.

“There’s nothing more frightening and humiliating than seeing your doctor when you’re half naked. I always come into the room and talk to them while they’re dressed, then I’ll leave so they can get ready for the exam.”

And her patients appreciate it. She keeps a rather thick folder of letters thanking her for her surgical skills, and for making patients feel at ease. In fact, most letters say, “You listened to me...”

Now, that’s a trait Dr. Huntwork came by the hard way.

“When I was growing up, I was very introverted. I was the kid who got teased and made fun of, so I really quit talking. When you do that, you learn to listen. That’s the most important part of being a doctor.”

She admits talking isn’t her gift, but when she does open her mouth, it’s her listening skills that help her to ask the right questions.

“There’s a lot more to illness than symptoms. If you talk to your patients and find out their daily stresses and challenges, you find there’s a lot more to it. You have to treat the whole person, not just a body part.”

That’s why being a Doctor of Osteopathy is so important to Dr. Huntwork.

“It was actually a Godsend. I didn’t know anything about being a DO, but it turns out, it fits my personality better. I’ve met a lot of surgeons who are jerks. They throw instruments and scream at their team. I realized I didn’t have to be like that. I didn’t have to be arrogant. I’m just a common person who happens to do surgery. I don’t have to know it all — in fact, when I admit to my patients that I don’t know the answer, but I’ll find out, it makes them more comfortable. They respect that.”

And that’s why her practice here at Lincoln Hospital is thriving. She is committed to the people of this county, to our hospital and to the *business* of medicine. She says there’s more to medicine than healing. It’s all about serving people.

“We need to make things as easy and comfortable for patients as possible. Just because something is convenient for staff, doesn’t mean it always benefits the patient. The patient comes first. They are our top priority, not ourselves.”

