

# The Inter-Mountain

## ERCC nurses say their profession is rewarding



The Inter-Mountain photo by Brooke Binns Nurses at Elkins Rehabilitation and Care Center celebrate National Nurses Week. From left are Ashley Cooper LPN, ERCC Director of Nursing Cheryl Gregg and ERCC Assistant Director of Nursing/RN Katie Howard.

ELKINS — Throughout National Nurses Week, nurses at Elkins Rehabilitation and Care Center spend time reflecting on their jobs,

saying their career is one of the most rewarding careers to have.

Katie Howard and Ashley Cooper, both nurses at ERCC, agree that creating relationships with residents is one of the most fulfilling and rewarding parts of their jobs.

Cheryl Gregg, director of nursing at ERCC, said nurses at the facility offer a lot of “TLC” for residents and their families.

*“You get to build a close relationship with the residents — you get to see them 24 hours a day,”* Howard said.

Nurses, in addition to other ERCC employees, are able to form bonds with residents and their families when celebrating birthdays, sharing lunches and enjoying other activities.

Cooper added that residents become somewhat like a second family to the nurses and staff at ERCC.

*“A lot of times we’re with them more than what their families are able to be,”* Cooper said. *“They look forward to seeing us because they get used to us, and we look forward to seeing them any day.”*

Both Howard and Cooper agreed that nursing has evolved since they first entered the field.

*“Patients are having more comorbidities and more extensive diseases that require a lot of care,”* Howard said. *“This facility is really good because the LPNs get to do a lot and experience a lot.”*

Cooper explained that one of the most rewarding parts of being an LPN at ERCC is seeing people progress and eventually return to their homes.

*“Some people come in not being able to walk or feed themselves, and then we get to see them eventually walk out of here,”* Cooper said.

*“There is nothing that I’ve ever done in life that has been more rewarding than being a nurse,” Gregg said.*

Howard has been an RN for six years and also currently serves as the assistant director of nursing at ERCC, and Cooper has worked as a licensed practical nurse since 2009.

*“They’re both wonderful nurses, and we do have a wonderful group of nurses here. These girls go above and beyond at all times – both of them do,” Gregg said.*

Many nurses who are employed at ERCC come from communities around the area, including Randolph, Pocahontas, Tucker, Barbour, and other nearby counties.

*“Everyone is bringing experience to the table, which helps everyone here grow, which is great for the facility,” Howard said. “I have learned so much just being here.”*

Nursing positions are currently available at the facility.

*“We’re always excited to have new people join us,” Howard said.*

## COMMENTS

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