

Lyna Nyamwaya chosen Metropolitan State outstanding student

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A New Hope woman has been selected an outstanding student at Metropolitan State University. Lyna Nyamwaya, chosen fall semester outstanding undergraduate in the university's College of Nursing and Health Sciences, was among 920 students receiving bachelor's and master's degrees during Metropolitan State's 85th commencement exercises on December 15.

"It's a great honor," said Nyamwaya, a registered nurse. "I'm quite excited about it."

Nyamwaya is a charge nurse in a cardiac unit at North Memorial Medical Center, Robbinsdale. Previously, she worked on the hospital's telemetry floor as a staff nurse.

Nyamwaya also previously served as a nurse manager at a Saint Louis Park nursing home and rehabilitation facility and as a licensed practical nurse at Saint Therese Home, New Hope.

Nyamwaya was born and reared in Kenya. She graduated with honors from Loreto Convent High School in Limuru, Kenya. She came to the United States in 1997 and attended Rock Valley College, Rockford, IL, soon afterward receiving her licensed practical nursing certificate. She won academic honors while receiving her associate of science in nursing from North Hennepin Community College in 2004, after which she obtained her registered nursing license.

She has been active in community service. Nyamwaya, a member of the Minnesota Nurse's Association, participated in the Minnesota-Africa 10-mile AIDS Walk this past summer. Through her Seventh Day Adventist Church in Minneapolis, she joined several other RNs who organized a health fair that included critical health checks and instruction about healthy living.

Nyamwaya's biggest challenge in life so far was dealing with the death of her grandmother in the Twin Cities. "She was very dear to my heart, my mom, my dad, my everything," she said. Nyamwaya and her husband Jerry Ong'era led efforts to raise \$25,000 from family, friends and church members so her grandmother's body could be transported back to Kenya and buried there.

In the future, Nyamwaya—who speaks four languages fluently—plans to pursue a graduate degree in nursing and eventually serve as a nurse practitioner.

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Metropolitan State University, a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, provides high-quality, affordable education programs for adults seeking bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. It is the only state university in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.