



# Marylyn Harris

RN, MSN, MBA

Healthcare Professional | Educator | Entrepreneur | Veterans Advocate | Servant Leader | Speaker

*For immediate release*  
September 11, 2014

## **NURSE ENTREPRENEUR NAMED UTHEALTH SCHOOL OF NURSING TOP ALUMNUS**

HOUSTON, Texas – Marylyn Harris, president and CEO of Harland Consulting, was honored during a Sept. 11 reception as the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient by the UTHealth School of Nursing in Houston.

Harris was selected by the Alumni Association Board to receive this prestigious honor. The Distinguished Alumni Award selects recipients based on their professional achievements to date and their potential to achieve even more. The award honors them for contributions made to nursing through patient care, research, education, advocacy, philanthropy and related endeavors, as well as continued commitment to the school. In August, Harris began work toward the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at the UTHealth School of Nursing, receiving a full scholarship.

A former U.S. Army medic and military-vocational nurse, Harris served in the Army from 1981-92 and completed a tour in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm/Shield. She earned her licensed vocational nursing certificate at Houston Community College, bachelor's degree in nursing from Prairie View A&M, Master of Science in Nursing from UTHealth School of Nursing and MBA from the University of St. Thomas-Houston (UST). At UTHealth, she was on the Dean's List, was the Faculty Award Recipient and participated in a Graduate Addictions Traineeship. The year she graduated from UTHealth (1997), she was named one of Houston's outstanding nurses by the Texas Nurses Association Division 9 for working with Houston's homeless, mentally ill population and for nursing excellence and community service.

Harris is an Adjunct Clinical Faculty at the UST School of Nursing. She has taught nursing at numerous schools including Prairie View A&M, Houston Baptist, UTHealth and the Kaplan NCLEX Review. Harris holds a Master in Business Administration (MBA) degree and has taught Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship and Economic Development at Houston Community College's Center for Entrepreneurship. Harris was recently selected as a finalist for the National Veteran-Owned Business Association's Woman Entrepreneur of the Year® award. She is the 2013 Small Business Administration "Veteran Business Champion" for SBA Region VI – Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and New Mexico. In 2012, Harris was the course facilitator for the Houston Veteran "FastTrac NewVenture Course" sponsored by the Kauffman Foundation and Accenture. She is scheduled to begin teaching with a cadre of international instructors in mid-September with the U.S. Small Business Administration's Boots to Business Program.

In 2009, inspired by her own military experiences, Harris started the nation's first and only Women Veterans Business Center designed to meet the unmet needs of the 2.2 million women veterans across the nation. Houston is home to more than 30,000 women veterans, and another 191,000-plus reside in Texas. The mission of the WVBC is to educate and empower women veterans (and military families) to start and grow wealth-generating veteran-owned businesses. Harris personally faced the struggles of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and military sexual trauma (MST), which inspired her to assist other women veterans with the post-military challenges.

Since 2011, Harris has served as national ambassador for the Veteran-Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (V-WISE) Program, sponsored by the Small Business Administration, and the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse. In 2013, she was named a White House "Champion of Change" by President Obama. Harris lives in a Houston suburb with her two children, Jamaar and Amaara.

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