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Dr. Katie Westgerdes Named Outstanding Faculty Liaison of the Year by NCPA Foundation

SAN DIEGO (Oct. 27, 2019) — Dr. Katie Westgerdes of the Ohio Northern University Raabe College of Pharmacy has been named the 2019 Outstanding Faculty Liaison of the Year by the National Community Pharmacists Association Foundation. Westgerdes is the faculty liaison for the NCPA Student Chapter at ONU and is the pharmacy manager at the university's on-campus independent pharmacy, Healthwise Pharmacy. She is a 2013 graduate of ONU and throughout college actively participated in ONU's NCPA Student Chapter. She became a faculty member and then faculty liaison in the winter of 2018.

Living in a medically underserved location of Ada, Ohio, Westgerdes saw a need and opportunity to help open the ONU on-campus pharmacy for use by members of the campus community and the surrounding area. With the strong business skills gained by starting a pharmacy, Westgerdes was instrumental in helping ONU's student business plan team to receive second runner up at [NCPA's 2018 Student Business Plan Competition and a first place finish at the Ohio Pharmacists Association's Business Plan Competition.](#)

In addition, Westgerdes' guidance also contributed to ONU's chapter earning recognition as the NCPA 2018 Chapter of the Year first runner up as well as that year's Legislative Challenge winner. She always finds a way to attend and remain deeply involved in every executive committee meeting and monthly chapter meetings. Westgerdes regularly demonstrates leadership, love of independent pharmacy, and dedication to the ONU Student NCPA chapter.

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The NCPA Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1953 to honor the previous incarnation of NCPA, the National Association of Retail Druggists (NARD) Executive Secretary John W. Dargavel. Contributions to the foundation are tax-deductible as charitable donations to the extent permitted under federal tax law. The NCPA Foundation supports the growth of independent community pharmacy through scholarships to pharmacy students, critical research/programs to improve the success of independent pharmacy and patient care, community service programs, and financial aid to community pharmacy owners for their recovery in the event of disaster or other adverse circumstances. For more information, go to www.ncpafoundation.org.

*Founded in 1898, the National Community Pharmacists Association **is the voice for the community pharmacist**, representing 22,000 pharmacies that employ 250,000 individuals nationwide. Community pharmacies are **rooted in the communities where they are located** and are among **America's most accessible health care providers**. To learn more, visit www.ncpanet.org.*