Oklahoma DSME Educator Wins Educator of the Year Award

Devon Murray, BS, has been awarded the TMF Health Quality Institute Health for Life/Everyone with Diabetes Counts Educator of the Year Award for Oklahoma. She was recognized for outstanding achievement in delivering very engaging and highly effective diabetes self-management education (DSME) classes for people from underserved communities in Oklahoma. Ms. Murray is employed by one of TMF’s partner organizations, the Oklahoma Healthy Aging Initiative.

Ms. Murray met all requirements for the award. These included successfully graduating a minimum of 50 TMF-qualified participants annually; submitting all required paperwork correctly, in a timely manner and with little reinforcement from TMF consultants; assisting newly-certified DSME educators; and marketing DSME classes in the community.

Margaret Enright, MPH, CDE, who is TMF’s Quality Improvement Consultant in Oklahoma, said that Ms. Murray produced the most TMF-qualified graduates of all of TMF’s certified DSME instructors in Oklahoma. She also participated in several panel presentations by TMF during Oklahoma’s marketing efforts to secure additional partners. Ms. Murray has said she loves to teach DSME because she can see her participants becoming actively engaged. Many have told her that attending the classes has been the first time they really understood their diabetes.

Diabetes is the most common cause of blindness, kidney failure and amputations in adults, as well as a leading cause of heart disease and stroke. People with diabetes spend 2.3 times more on health care costs than others without the disease. DSME is a proven intervention for empowering persons with diabetes to take an active role in managing their disease. It has been shown that DSME classes significantly reduce the serious complications of the disease.