



West Virginia University

ROBERT C. BYRD HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

For Immediate Release

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Nurse Professionals Accepted Into Statewide Leadership Institute

The West Virginia Nursing Leadership Institute is proud to announce the acceptance of 20 registered nurses from across the state into its' Inaugural Class. The WVNLI is a ground-breaking state-wide program to further prepare nurses in leadership skills to assist their institutions and profession as West Virginia addresses an impending and serious nursing shortage.

Studies estimate that the state will be unable to meet the predicted demand for as many as 2,500 additional nurses by the year 2008. This impending nursing shortage calls for innovative solutions that support nurses who wish to stay and work in their home communities. The Institute's 18-month program allows participants to remain in their current positions, while providing the experiences, insights, networking, competencies and skill-enhancements necessary to become effective leaders both in the workplace and in their communities.

Members of the Inaugural Class include: Teresa Bayer, Wood County Board of Education; Eva Lynn Bentley, Jackson General Hospital; Janet Caruthers, Shannon Davis, Denise Sneed and Noel Young-Hodge, Charleston Area Medical Center; Laura Clayton, Shepherd University; Michele Godwin, West Virginia University; Kimberly Houchin, Minnie Hamilton Health Care Center; Sharon Jeffrey, Suncrest Medical/Sundale Nursing Home; Susan Jordan, Kanawha-Charleston Health Department; Peggy Lambert and Melanie Whelan, WVU Institute of Technology; Beverly Lopez, The Heritage; Shannon McMillion, Heartland of Beckley; Sheryl Sergent, Roane General Hospital; Rosemary Smith, Cabell Huntington Hospital; Jennifer Walls, Cabell-Huntington Health Department; Michelle Winters, Valley Center; Mary Lynne Withrow, WVU Hospitals.

The West Virginia Nursing Leadership Institute was created through a collaboration between the West Virginia University School of Nursing - Charleston Division and the Charleston Area Medical Center Health Education and Research Institute (CAMC Institute). The highly interactive Institute includes opportunities for participants to build leadership skills through workshops and classes, including four intensive, 2 ½ day seminars in Charleston. In addition, state-of-the-art internet programs will enable participants to work on assignments and leadership projects from their homes or workplaces. Participants also receive ongoing mentorship from a recognized leader in West Virginia.

Project Director Cynthia Persily, PhD, RN welcomed the inaugural class at the start of its' first session on January 23, 2005. She is proud of the efforts of the many groups that have made the program a reality. "The West Virginia Nursing Leadership Institute is a powerful solution to the challenge of leadership

development in nursing," Persily said. "It promises to be one of the most effective and comprehensive statewide leadership development programs available today for nurses. The need for leadership in addressing the nursing shortage is obvious. Our inaugural class will be positioned to provide local leadership at this crucial time." Persily is a devoted advocate for nursing in West Virginia, serving on a number of committees and boards to address nursing issues. Chairperson of the WVU School of Nursing, Charleston Division and Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Southern Region Programs, Persily also serves as a member of the West Virginia Board of Nurse Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses, and as an appointed member of the legislatively mandated West Virginia Commission to Study the Nursing Shortage.

The West Virginia Nursing Leadership Institute has benefited from the support of many area foundation and charitable groups, including The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, The CAMC Foundation, Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Fund, Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows Program, The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, The BB&T West Virginia Foundation and Charleston Area Medical Center.

If you would like more information about the West Virginia Nursing Leadership Institute, call (304) 347-1207 or toll-free 1-866-882-6270, e-mail wvnli@hsc.wvu.edu or visit the Institute's website at www.wvnli.org

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