



For Immediate Release

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**18 NURSES COMPLETE NURSE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Exclusive Program Trains Rising Leaders in Skilled Nursing Facilities**

(ALBANY, N.Y.) – Eighteen nurses from central New York area skilled nursing facilities have completed the Foundation for Quality Care’s First Line Nurse Manager Program, an exclusive leadership program for nurses in senior management roles who aspire to become or remain leaders in the long-term care profession.

The First Line Nurse Manager Program is part of the Long Term Care Leadership Institute, which was developed by the Foundation for Quality Care, a non-profit research and educational foundation affiliated with the New York State Health Facilities Association. The innovative program, assisted by funds from the New York State Department of Health and Labor - Health Workforce Retraining Initiative and the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration - Nurse Education, Practice and Retention Programs, provides college-level credits through the State University of New York Institute of Technology’s (SUNYIT) School of Nursing and Health Systems in Utica.

“No one is more important to the delivery of quality care than nurses and nurse leaders. We need to do everything we can to support them,” said Richard J. Herrick, President of the New York State Health Facilities Association and the Foundation for Quality Care. “Programs such as these are critical to the long-term success of skilled nursing facilities in New York State.”

The Long Term Care Leadership Program was designed to provide nursing leaders with an ongoing educational and peer networking program that promotes personal development, core competencies and best practices in the role of long-term care nursing.

“The Institute is even more critical in these times of staffing shortages and increased quality of care and financial pressures in the long-term care profession,” said Richard Patterson, Executive Director of the Foundation for Quality Care. “This program trains the current and most importantly, the next generation of nurse leaders who care for New York’s most frail populations.”

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Nurses Complete Nurse Leadership Program 2-2-2

The 18 participants who have completed the First Line Nurse Manager Program are:

Melissa Bailey, RN, Van Allen Nursing Home, **Little Falls**

Roxanne Ballard, RN, Rome Memorial Hospital's Residential Health Care Facility, **Rome**

Brenda Foster, RN, Van Allen Nursing Home, **Little Falls**

Maureen Gallagher, Nurse Manager, Hamilton Community Memorial Hospital, **Hamilton**

Kathy Gilbert, RN, Rome Memorial Hospital's Residential Health Care Facility, **Rome**

Patricia Hotaling, Nursing Supervisor, St. Luke Health Services, **Oswego**

Tracy Knecht, Nurse Supervisor, Chenango Memorial Hospital RHC, **Norwich**

Tiffany Komannecky, Nursing Supervisor, Auburn Nursing Home, **Auburn**

Ann Martin, Nursing Supervisor, Chenango Memorial Hospital RHC, **Norwich**

Nancy Martin, Inservice Coordinator, Bridgewater Center for Rehab and Nursing, **Binghamton**

Donna Ortalano, Supervisor, Rome Nursing Home, **Rome**

Kathy Ranous, Nurse Manager, The Manor at Seneca Hill, **Oswego**

Shelly Reynolds, Unit Manager, Vestal Nursing Ctr, **Vestal**

Maureen Riddick, Nurse Manager, The Crossings Nursing and Rehab Centre, **Minoa**

Vickie Rounds, Nurse Manager, Lewis County General Hospital Residential Health Care Facility, **Lowville**

Rebecca Staring, Nurse Manager, Mercy Health & Rehab, **Auburn**

Debra Tkacz, Nurse Manager, Mercy Health & Rehab, **Auburn**

Melissa Wilson, Nurse Manager, James Square Health & Rehab center, **Syracuse**

The Foundation for Quality Care, Inc. is a non-profit educational foundation affiliated with the New York State Health Facilities Association, a statewide, membership organization of more than 250 licensed nursing facilities. The membership includes individual and multi-facility operations of proprietary, voluntary and government sponsorship. NYSHFA members, who care for more than 42,000 New Yorkers, are dedicated to the highest standards of care and to the quality of life of their residents.