



For Immediate Release

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

(ALBANY, N.Y.) – Twenty nurses from central New York area nursing facilities have completed the Foundation for Quality Care’s Director of Nursing Leadership Program, an exclusive program for nurses in senior management roles who aspire to become or remain leaders in the long-term care profession.

The Director of Nursing Leadership 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 20 participants who have completed the Director of Nursing Leadership Program are:

Rita Carbone, Director of Nursing, St. Joseph's Hospital SNF, **Elmira**
Karen Carroll, Regional Director, Loretto Health and Rehab, **Syracuse**
Holly Chapman, Asst. Administrator/Director of Clinical Reimbursement, Seneca Hill Manor, **Oswego**
Kelly Davids, Director of Nursing, Seneca Nursing & Rehab, **Waterloo**
Susan DiPasquale, Director of Nursing, Park Ridge Living Center, **Rochester**
Crystal Ferguson, BS in nursing, Harding Nursing Home, **Waterville**
Melinda Ford-Prior, Director of Nursing, Michaud Residential Health Services, **Fulton**
Paulette Furnia, Assistant DON, James Square Health & Rehab center, **Syracuse**
Kathryn Keough, Assistant DON, Susquehanna Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, **Johnson**
Tina Kerfien, Director of Nursing, Lewis County General Hospital RHC, **Lowville**
Lucinda LaFrance, Director of Nursing, Clifton Fine Hospital, **Star Lake**
Sharon Nagle, Director of Nursing, Van Allen Nursing Home, **Little Falls**
Patti Nelson, Director of Nursing, Elderwood Health Care at Birchwood, **Liverpool**
Julie Parker, Director of Nursing, Northwoods at Cortland, **Cortland**
Betty J. Siddall, Director of Nursing, Rosewood Heights Health Center, **Syracuse**
Mary Smith-Nauseef, Nurse manager, Cortland Care Center, **Cortland**
Christine Stanton, Director of Nursing, Northwoods at Moravia, **Moravia**
Claudia Thomas, Assistant DON, Auburn Nursing home, **Auburn**
Colleen Jo Tuttle, Director of Nursing, Sitrin Health Care, **New Hartford**
Teri L. Urtz, Director of Nursing, Bethany Gardens Skilled Living Center, **Rome**

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.