



For Immediate Release

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**LOCAL CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS ARE FIRST TO GRADUATE
FROM CAREER DEVELOPMENT COURSE**

(ALBANY, N.Y.) – Twelve certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) from local nursing facilities recently graduated from the Foundation for Quality Care’s Geriatric Nursing Assistant Career Development Program (GNACD) after completing 27 hours of specialized training in geriatric care. The graduates were from Wingate at Beacon, Beacon, NY; Wingate at Dutchess, Fishkill, NY and Wingate at Ulster, Highland, NY. All of the graduating CNAs received increases in their compensation, new job titles and a graduation certificate from the Foundation for Quality Care and Lifeworks, Inc.

GNACD operates throughout New York State to improve recruitment, retention and skill development of Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) working in long-term care facilities. The program staff supports long term care employers, encouraging them to institutionalize career ladders for CNAs and is also working to develop an industry-recognized advanced credential for CNAs. The GNACD program is operated by the Foundation for Quality Care, which is the research and education affiliate of the New York State Health Facilities Association (NYSHFA).

This grant-funded program will provide training to approximately 72 nurse staff developers and 360 CNAs over a three-year period. The GNACD recruitment component offers regional CNA recruitment and career education events and establishes working relationships between long term care employers and their regional workforce boards. This program is funded by the partnering facilities and a generous grant from the Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation.

At the recent graduation ceremony for the CNAs from the Wingate Health Systems approximately 65 people were in attendance. Janet Giannetta, Regional Human Resource Manager for Wingate said, “This program has been a wonderful success. Other CNAs in our facilities have been beating down the door trying to find out how they can get into the program. We have already scheduled our next program for September of this year”. Graduating CNA Ron Jay Dorsey of Wingate at Ulster added, “I was very grateful for the opportunity to go through this program. Even though I have been a CNA for awhile, I learned a lot and got a chance to know my co-workers better.”

“The GNACD Program is even more critical in these times of staffing shortages, 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 CNAs who care for New York’s most frail populations.”

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CNAs Graduate from Career Development Course 2-2-2

The twelve CNAs who graduated from the program are:

Wingate at Beacon, Beacon

Judy Meade
Jerene Frankson
Deanna Ware

Wingate at Dutchess, Fishkill

Joan Conklin
Wayne Powell

Wingate at Ulster, Highland

Kelly Belton
Carrie Corliss
Ron Jay Dorsey
Lillian Gregory
Gwen Jones
Ada Miranda
Tonia Ruffing

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.