



For Immediate Release
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**NINETEEN NURSES COMPLETE NURSE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Exclusive Program Trains Rising Leaders in Skilled Nursing Facilities**

(UTICA, N.Y.) – Nineteen nurses from nursing facilities across New York State have completed the Foundation for Quality Care’s Nurse Educator Course, an exclusive leadership program for nurses in senior management roles who aspire to become or remain leaders in the long-term care profession.

The Nurse Educator Course 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, funded by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration Nurse Education, Practice & Retention Program and the New York State Department of Health’s grant program, the Health Workforce Retraining Initiative, provides college-level credits through the State University of New York Institute of Technology’s (SUNYIT) School of Nursing and Health Systems in Utica. It is also approved by the New York State Department of Health as a train the trainer program for registered nurses who provide the nursing assistant certificate course.

“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 next generation of nurse leaders to care for New York’s most frail populations.”

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Nurses Complete Nurse Leadership Program 2-2-2

The 19 participants who have completed the Nurse Educator Course are:

Rico Abella, Staff Development Coordinator & Infection Control, St. Vincente de Paul Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, **Mount Vernon**

May Andersen, Nursing Service Training Coordinator, Fulton County Residential Health Care Facility, **Gloversville**

Sharon Braunlich, Nursing In-Service Coordinator, Presbyterian Home, **New Hartford**

Vicki Callagan, RN Nurse Educator, Our Lady of Mercy Life Center, **Guilderland**

Carla Cooper, Primary Instructor, Wesley Healthcare, **Saratoga Springs**

Sharon Dolphin, Inservice Coordinator, ElderWood Health Care At Lakewood, **Hamburg**

Crystal Ferguson, Director of Nursing, Harding Nursing Home, **Waterville**

Marlene Johnson, Education Coordinator, Carthage Area Hospital, **Carthage**

Mary Ann Laubacher, Staff Development Coordinator, The Crossings Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre, **Minoa**

Trefalyn Lewandowski, In Service Director, Good Samaritan Nursing Home, **Sayville**

Agnes Madle, Staff Development, Auburn Nursing Home, **Auburn**

Barbara Moretti, RN, Loretto Health and Rehab Center, **Syracuse**

Sherrie Nead, RN, Countryside Care Center, **Delhi**

Molly Pleskach, Staff Educator, Carthage Area Hospital, **Carthage**

Deborah Salato, Supervisor, Infection Control, In-Service Coordinator, Cayuga County Nursing Home, **Auburn**

Deborah Thornton, Staff Developer, Syracuse Home Association, **Baldwinsville**

Nancy Trombley, Assistant Director of Nursing, Franklin County Nursing Home, **Malone**

Mario Trottier, Manager Professional Development, Highlands at Brighton, **Rochester**

Norma Williams, Staff Development/Employee Educator, Van Allen Nursing Home, **Little Falls**

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 and assisted living facilities. The membership includes individual and multi-facility operations of proprietary, voluntary and government sponsorship. NYSHFA members, who care for more than 40,000 New Yorkers, are dedicated to the highest standards of care and to the quality of life of their residents.