



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

(UTICA, N.Y.) – Eighteen 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 18 participants who have completed the Nurse Educator Course are:

**Margaret Collea**, Staff Development, Eastern Star Home, **Oriskany**

**Karen Daigler**, InService Coordinator, Schofield Residence, **Kenmore**

**Suzanne Klotz**, Staff Development Coordinator, The Dutch Manor Nursing and Rehab. Centre, **Schenectady**

**Robin Knaier**, DON, Cuba Memorial Hospital, **Cuba**

**Mary Knapp**, RN Inservice Coordinator, Schuyler Heights, **Clifton Park**

**Veronica Liburd**, RN Staff Development Support, NYS Veterans Home at Montrose, **Montrose**

**Ada Lisette-Leon**, InService Coordinator, Oak Hollow Nursing Center, **Middle Island**

**Deborah Major**, Inservice Coordinator, Absolut Care of Aurora, **East Aurora**

**Lee Ann Malseptic**, Assistant Director of Nursing, Evergreen Valley Nursing Home, **Plattsburgh**

**Christine Palmeri**, Nurse Manager, Edna Tina Wilson Living Center, **Rochester**

**Richard Patenaude**, Staff Development Coordinator, Mt Lorreto Nursing Home, **Amsterdam**

**Lydia Pelote-Wright**, Staff Development, NYS Veterans Home at Montrose, **Montrose**

**Patricia Proulx**, RN, Penfield Place, **Penfield**

**Mary Lou Robinson**, MDS Coordinator/Inservice Coordinator, Lakeside Nursing Home Inc., **Ithaca**

**Karen Sarandis**, ADON/In-service Coordinator, Vestal Nursing Center, **Vestal**

**Sue Schmitt**, Director of Education, Betsy Ross Nursing & Rehab Center, **Rome**

**Kathleen Warren**, Staff Development Coordinator, St. Joseph's Nursing Home, **Utica**

**Karen Weeks**, Infection Control/Staff Development, Ideal Sr. Living Center UHS, **Endicott**

*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.*