



**For Immediate Release**

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

(ALBANY, N.Y.) – Seventeen 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 17 participants who have completed the First Line Nurse Manager Program are:

**Lana Banner**, RN, James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Home, **Johnson City**

**Linda Barnhill**, RN, Nurse Manager, Syracuse Home Association, **Baldwinsville**

**Ruth Ann Buck**, RN, Assistant Head Nurse, Cayuga County Nursing Home, **Auburn**

**Kristen Czajka**, RN, Nurse Manager, Bethany Gardens Skilled Living Center, **Rome**

**Jill Dove**, RN, Auburn Nursing Home, **Auburn**

**Eileen Fischer**, RN, Supervisor, Chenango Memorial Hospital RHCF, **Norwich**

**Cynthia Furman**, RN, Night Supervisor, Lakeside Nursing Home, **Ithaca**

**Kathleen Hansen**, RN, Nurse Manager, James Square Health & Rehab. Center, **Syracuse**

**Julie Houghtaling**, RN, Nurse Coordinator, Seneca Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, **Waterloo**

**Pamela Kinney**, RN, Unit Manager, Chase Nursing Home, **New Berlin**

**Colleen McFall**, RN, Unit Manager, Vestal Nursing Center, **Vestal**

**Janice Philpot**, RN, Nurse Manager, Central Park Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, **Syracuse**

**Charles Pierce**, RN, Nurse Manager, James Square Health & Rehab. Center, **Syracuse**

**Susan Schimke**, RN, Nursing Supervisor, Chenango Memorial Hospital RHCF, **Norwich**

**Leslie Van Austin**, LPN, Nursing Supervisor, Vestal Nursing Center, **Vestal**

**Sandra Verity**, RN, Clinical Manager, Lakeside Nursing Home, **Ithaca**

**Teresa Whipple**, RN, Cayuga County Nursing Home, **Auburn**

*The Foundation for Quality Care, Inc. is a non-profit educational foundation affiliated with the New York State Health Facilities Association and the New York State Center for Assisted Living, a statewide, membership organization of more than 270 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 44,000 New Yorkers, are dedicated to the highest standards of care and to the quality of life of their residents.*