



For Immediate Release
September 7, 2010

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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 work instructor 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:

Deneen Bowman, Director Nursing Services, Pontiac Care & Rehab. Center, **Oswego**

Maryanne Campbell, RN Asst. Director of Nursing, Chase Memorial Nursing Home, **New Berlin**

Maureen Conway, Director of Staff Education, St. Camillus Residential Health Care Facility, **Syracuse**

Wendy Distaffen, RN, BC, Penfield Place, **Penfield**

Loreen Evans, RN Staff Educator, The Avenue Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre, **Schenectady**

Kathleen Gregory, Staff Educator, Elant, Inc., **Goshen**

Hilda Grier, Asst. Director of Nursing, Lutheran Augustana Ctr for Extended Care & Rehab., **Brooklyn**

Barbara Jordan, RN, Highland Healthcare Center, **Wellsville**

Helen Kiernan, South Shore Healthcare, **Freeport**

Danielle Leahey, RN, Schervier Pavilion, **Warwick**

Amy Pandozzi, Nurse Educator, Jewish Home of Central New York, **Syracuse**

Debbie Pierce, Nurse Educator, Horace Nye Home, **Elizabethtown**

Jenny Rudock, Staff Educator, Elizabeth Church Manor, **Binghamton**

Avion Thomas-Walsh, Asst. Director of Nursing, Valley View Ctr for Nursing Care & Rehab., **Goshen**

JoAnn Trzcinski, Nursing Asst Training Program Coord./Instructor, Unity Health System, **Rochester**

Karen Volk, RN Inservice Coordinator, Gowanda Rehab. & Nursing Center, **Gowanda**

Ellen Wartella, Staff Development Coordinator, Oneida Healthcare Center, **Oneida**

Cindy Williams, Staff Development Coordinator, The Springs Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre, **Troy**

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.