

For immediate release

### **Nurse leadership program begins second class**

(Charleston) – They work at hospitals, school systems and community health centers and they're all coming to Charleston to grow as leaders.

This is the second class of the West Virginia Nursing Leadership Institute created by the Charleston Area Medical Center Health Education and Research Institute and the WVU School of Nursing, Charleston Division. Twenty-eight men and women from throughout the state have been selected for this second class.

#### **The group's first meeting will be held Nov. 6 - 8 at the WVU Building on the CAMC Memorial Hospital campus in Charleston.**

Cynthia Armstrong Persily PhD, RN, is the WVNLI's program director and the chairwoman of the WVU School of Nursing, Charleston Division. "The need for leadership in addressing the nursing shortage is obvious," Dr. Persily said. "The West Virginia Nursing Leadership Institute is a powerful solution to the challenge of leadership development in nursing."

Participants will come to Charleston four times, during the next 12 months, for two-and-a-half days of interactive classes. The curriculum will provide nurses with the experience, insights and skills necessary to become effective leaders. Participants will learn effective strategies to motivate others and work more successfully in teams, and will improve their negotiating and decision-making skills.

The Participants also will design individualized leadership projects in their hometowns to recruit or retain nurses in their area, and will be mentored by a recognized state leader. "The business impact of this leadership development program in local organizations has been documented by the participants in our inaugural class," Dr. Persily said. "This new class will substantially increase the number of nurse leaders positioned to provide local leadership at this crucial time."

There are currently about 23,000 nurses in the state. The 2003 West Virginia Nursing Shortage Study Commission Report estimates our state will be unable to meet the predicted demand for as many as 2,500 additional nurses by 2008.

Nurses working in hospitals, public health departments, primary care clinics, schools of nursing and rural areas are being targeted to participate. Upon completion, each participant will receive continuing education units and have the potential to earn college credit.

The program has received a \$184,200.00 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and has benefited from the gracious support of many area charitable groups, including the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows Program, BB&T West Virginia Foundation, Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Fund, the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Charleston Area Medical Center and the CAMC Foundation. These organizations will provide 15% of the 216,670.00 budget for the Institute, with HHS funds providing the additional 85% funding.

For more information about the WVNLI, log on to [www.wvnli.org](http://www.wvnli.org) or call (304) 347-1207 or toll-free 1-866-882-6270.

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