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**NINETEEN FIRST LINE MANAGERS COMPLETE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Exclusive Program Trains Rising Leaders in Skilled Nursing Facilities**

(ALBANY, N.Y.) – Nineteen first line managers from New York City and northern metro area skilled nursing facilities have completed the Foundation for Quality Care’s First Line Manager Program, an exclusive leadership program for staff in middle management roles who aspire to become leaders in the long-term care profession.

The First Line 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. This innovative program, assisted by funds from the New York State Dept. of Health and Dept. of Labor Health Workforce Retraining Initiative, was expanded to include managers and supervisors from a variety of disciplines and to add in a more comprehensive session on cultural competence. The eight day program provided participants the opportunity to learn new leadership skills, fine-tune existing knowledge, explore supervisory strategies, and operationally apply the skills and competencies that are needed to be an effective First Line Manager/Supervisor in today’s skilled nursing facility setting.

“Managers and Supervisors in all departments serve a vital role in ensuring quality care for residents in long term care facilities,” 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 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 skilled nursing facility leaders who care for New York’s most frail populations.”

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The 19 participants who have completed the First Line Nurse Manager Program are:

Katie Ables, RN Manager, Cobble Hill Nursing Home Inc., **Brooklyn**

Karen Bannister, Manager, Schulman and Schachne Inst. For Nursing & Rehab., **Brooklyn**

Megan Bowen, RN, Saints Joachim & Anne Nursing & Rehab Center, **Brooklyn**

Shereka Brayboy-Johnson, Nurse Manager, North Westchester Restorative Therapy & NC, **Mohegan Lake**

Barbara Confident, RN, Atrium Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing, **Brooklyn**

Linda DiBaggio, Director of Food & Nutrition, Bridge View Nursing Home, **Whitestone**

Patricia Downer-Bandoo, RNM, Regeis Care Center, **Bronx**

Abigail Espiritu, RNS, New York Center for Rehab Care, **Astoria**

Carolyn Franklin, Dir. Of Therapeutic Recreation/Volunteers, Buena Vida Continuing Care & Rehab Ctr,
Brooklyn

Carlos Garcia, RN, New York Center for Rehab Care, **Astoria**

Irina Israilov, RN Supervisor, Dr. William O. Benenson Rehab. Pavilion, **Flushing**

Alicia Legister, ADNS, Bishop MacLean Episcopal NH, **Far Rockaway**

Sylvia Luna, RN Supervisor, Sephardic Skilled Nursing & Rehab Center, **Brooklyn**

Magalie Marc, Social Work Manager, New York Congregational Nursing Center, **Brooklyn**

Natalie Morrison, RN Supervisor, Dr. William O. Benenson Rehab. Pavilion, **Flushing**

Velsa Oliver, RN Supervisor, Dr. William O. Benenson Rehab. Pavilion, **Flushing**

Jacqueline Reid, Social Work Manager, Helen & Michael Schaffer Extended Care Center, **New Rochelle**

Isabella Rypina, RNS, Palm Gardens Center for Nursing and Rehab, **Brooklyn**

Marichu Tumanda, RN Unit Manager, Bridge View Nursing Home, **Whitestone**

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The Foundation for Quality Care, Inc. is a non-profit educational foundation affiliated with the New York State Health Facilities Association (NYSHFA)/New York State Center for Assisted Living (NYSCAL), a statewide membership organization of more than 300 licensed skilled nursing and assisted living facilities. The membership is diversified and represents individual and multi-facility operations of proprietary, voluntary and government sponsorship. Members take care of more than 51,000 ill, aged and infirm New Yorkers. Members of NYSHFA/NYSCAL are dedicated to the highest standards of care and to the quality of life of all residents.