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

(ALBANY, N.Y.) – Nineteen nurses from nursing facilities across the state have completed the Foundation for Quality Care’s Director of Nursing Leadership Program, an exclusive program for nurses in senior management roles who aspire to become or remain leaders in the long-term care profession.

The Director of Nursing Leadership 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, 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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The 19 participants who have completed the Director of Nursing Leadership Program are:

**Teresa Bertrand**, Director of Nursing, Crown Nursing & Rehab, **Brooklyn**  
**Maria Teresa Cuevas**, Director of Nursing, Flushing Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation, **Flushing**  
**Liza Dowd**, Director of Nursing, Dr. William O. Benenson Rehab. Pavilion, **Flushing**  
**Janet Foucher**, Assistant Director of Nursing, The Pines at Poughkeepsie Ctr for Nursing & Rehab, **Poughkeepsie**  
**Carolyn Garcia**, Director of Nursing, Hopkins Center for Rehab & Healthcare, **Brooklyn**  
**Rowena Gaspar**, Assistant Director of Nursing, Regal Heights Rehab and Health Care Center, **Jackson Heights**  
**Rose Gilles**, RN, Director of Staff Development, Cold Spring Hills Center for Nursing & rehabilitation, **Woodbury**  
**Christina Jones**, Assistant Director of Nursing, Gurwin Jewish Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, **Commack**  
**Theresa Kempf**, Director of Nursing, Ozanam Hall of Queens Nursing Home, Inc., **Bayside**  
**Mary McClean**, Director of Nursing, Salem Hills Rehabilitation & Healthcare, **Purdys**  
**Michelle Moore**, Director of Nursing, Barnwell Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, **Valatie**  
**Jean Muendel**, Director of Nursing, Putnam Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, **Holmes**  
**Harlan Ragay**, Director of Nursing, Amsterdam Nursing Home Corporation, **New York**  
**Mary Ryan**, Director of Nursing, Beacon Rehab & Nursing Center, **Rockaway Park**  
**Margarita Salazar**, Director of Nursing, Cedar Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, **Ossining**  
**Noel Sweetser**, ADON, Mills Pond Nursing & Rehabilitation, **St. James**  
**Susan Tadique**, Senior Associate Director, Coler Rehabilitation & Nursing Care Center, **New York**  
**Maryellen Towey**, Assistant Director of Nursing, Meadowbrook Care Center, **Freeport**  
**Renee Wasserman**, Director of Nursing, Riverdale Nursing Home, **Bronx**

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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.*