



WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: GEORGE COUCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Date: DECEMBER 31, 2007
Phone: 304-455-8111

WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL NURSE IN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

New Martinsville, WV – Wetzel County Hospital is proud to announce that Arlene Summers, BSBA, RN, Chief of Inpatient Nursing has been accepted into the West Virginia Nursing Leadership Institute. The WVNLI is a ground-breaking state-wide program to further prepare nurses in leadership skills to assist their institution and profession as West Virginia addresses an impending and serious nursing shortage.

Arlene is a member of the fourth class of the West Virginia Nursing Leadership Institute, created by the WVU School of Nursing – Charleston Division and the Charleston Area Medical Center Health Education and Research Institute. Thirty two nurses from throughout the state have been selected for this class and completed their first session in Charleston in November. Shannon Smith, RN and Operating Room Nurse Manager at Wetzel County Hospital is also a graduate of the program.

“We are honored that another of our nurses has been selected to join this select leadership program and know that encouraging and assisting our nursing leaders to participate in the program will help us assure a high quality of nursing care, services and supervision,” said George Couch, Wetzel County Hospital’ Chief Executive Officer.

Participants will come to WVU’s Charleston Division three more times during the next year for two-and-a-half day sessions of interactive classes. The curriculum will provide nurses with the experiences, insights and skills necessary to become effective leaders.

3 East Benjamin Drive
New Martinsville, WV 26155
Phone 304.455.8111
Fax 304.455.4259
e-mail gcouch@wetzelhealth.org

Participants will learn effective strategies to motivate others and work more successfully in teams, and will improve their negotiating and decision-making skills.

Cynthia Armstrong Persily PhD, RN, FAAN 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."

Program participants 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 the leadership development program in local organizations has been documented by the participants in previous classes," Dr. Persily said. "This new class will substantially increase the number of nurse leaders positioned to provide local leadership at this crucial time."

Nurses working in hospitals, public health departments, schools, other community health service areas, nursing education, business and government are encouraged to participate. Upon completion, each participant will receive continuing education units and have the potential to earn college credit.

The program has received a \$187,706.00 grant (year 3 or year 3), from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and has benefited from the 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 and the CAMC Foundation. These organizations will provide 22% of the \$240,000.00 budget for the Institute, with HHS funds providing the additional 78% funding.

Wetzel County Hospital is a licensed and accredited, 68-bed facility, offering comprehensive acute care inpatient, outpatient services, emergency department and transitional care unit. The hospital is located 35 miles south of Wheeling and 60 miles north of Parkersburg, West Virginia.

- end -