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**Day in the Life of a Nurse™ encourages students to become future nurses
as forecasts show a growing need for nurses in the region and throughout Florida**

*The Nursing Consortium of South Florida's annual program celebrates 16 years
of providing middle and high school students a glimpse of the nursing profession*

Miami, Florida – November 5, 2015 – The Nursing Consortium of South Florida, a non-profit coalition of hospitals, nursing schools, and health care staffing organizations, has organized the Day in the Life of a Nurse™ program to take place on Friday, November 13 in partnership with South Florida public school districts and many private high schools. “This program provides students with a unique opportunity to shadow registered nurses and learn about this truly rewarding career. We also work closely with the public school systems to provide an orientation to teachers and counselors prior to the event, and suggest ways that they can introduce nursing topics into their curriculum so that student experiences are reinforced in the classroom,” explained Joanne Masella, one of this year’s program co-chairs and Dean of the Palm Beach Atlantic University School of Nursing. “Our goal is to inspire students to pursue a career in nursing by providing them a glimpse of the important and varied work that nurses do.” A total of fifty-three South Florida hosting facilities and fifty-four schools are scheduled to participate this year. “More than 1,500 students will take part in the program this year at hospitals and schools of nursing from Tavernier to Fort Pierce. We are delighted that so many facilities have agreed to host this year.” noted Maggie Hansen, Chief Nursing Officer at Memorial Regional Hospital and program co-chair.

In most instances, students participating in the one-day program take part in various activities including nurse led tours of hospital departments. This experience allows students to spend time with a nurse and ask them individual questions about their profession, their challenges, and their nursing stories. Students also typically meet and hear from nurse educators, information systems nurses, nurse researchers, and nurse administrators. In addition to shadowing staff nurses and listening to various presentations, student experiences can include learning to take a person’s blood pressure and pulse, listening to their heart beat through a stethoscope, scrubbing in and dressing out in surgical attire, touring a surgical room where they may handle high tech equipment, and spending time in skills labs and simulation suites typically used for nurse education and testing. In order to accommodate growing interest in the program, some student groups also



visit college campuses where they spend time with faculty and nursing students and interact with patient simulators and other educational tools.

“We are so pleased to have the students come in and spend time with area nurses. Each can be an inspiration to the other.” noted Hansen, “Former program participants are now nurses in various South Florida hospitals.” Of course, not every program participant discovers a calling to become a nurse, but it is important that young people gain a better understanding of the many career opportunities within the nursing profession, the academic requirements for pursuing a nursing education, and the attributes common to successful nurses including compassion, common sense, the ability to handle stress and maintain composure under difficult circumstances, a pleasant and affable personality, a passion for life-long learning, and the ability to work in teams effectively.”

As a result of the recovering economy, older nurses retiring, and expanded opportunities for nurses in community settings, hospitals are experiencing increased vacancies, and initiatives such as Day in the Life of a Nurse™ are a response to a projected 56,000 nurse shortage in Florida by 2025 according to the Florida Center for Nursing. With such a great number of employment opportunities on the horizon, Day in the Life of a Nurse™ provides South Florida middle and high school students an up close and personal experience to the world of nursing.

In addition to the adverse impact on quality of care and patient satisfaction resulting from nurse shortages, local and state economies are adversely impacted by vacant nurse positions. “We estimate that nearly \$38 million in additional state and local tax revenues would have been collected if all vacant nursing positions had been filled last year,” explained Ralph Egües, Executive Director of the Nursing Consortium of South Florida. Nowhere in the state is health care more important than in South Florida where the health care sector is the third largest source of jobs behind the tourism and the public sectors. “Having an ample and high quality nurse workforce is key not only to our ability to care for an aging population, but also key to the region’s ability to continue to grow as a health care destination in this era of greater transparency that includes [published](#) standardized health outcomes and patient satisfaction measures that facilitate the comparison of health care facilities across the country. So, this program and other Consortium initiatives not only contribute to the region’s future physical and mental well being, it has a real impact on South Florida’s economic vitality as well,” noted Steve Seeley, COO/CNO at Jupiter Medical Center and President of the Nursing Consortium of South Florida.



Hospitals and other South Florida facilities that will host students this year include:

Baptist Hospital	JFK Medical Center	Northwest Medical Center
Barry University	Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital	Nova Southeastern University (Davie Campus)
Bethesda Hospital East	Jupiter Medical Center	Nova Southeastern University (Kendall Campus)
Boca Raton Regional Hospital	Keiser University	Palm Beach Atlantic University
Broward College	Kendall Regional Medical Center	Palm Beach State College
Broward Health Medical Center	Larkin Community Hospital	South Miami Hospital
Chamberlain College of Nursing	Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute	St. Mary's Medical Center
Coral Gables Hospital	Mariners Hospital	Sylvester Cancer Center
Delray Medical Center	Martin Medical Center	University Hospital & Medical Center
Doctors Hospital	McFatter Tech School	University of Miami School of Nursing and Health
Florida National University	Memorial Hospital Miramar	University of Miami Hospital
Good Samaritan Medical Center	Memorial Hospital Pembroke	West Boca Medical Center
HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital	Memorial Hospital West	West Coast University
Holy Cross Hospital	Memorial Regional Hospital	West Kendall Baptist Hospital
Homestead Hospital	Memorial Regional Hospital South	West Palm Hospital
Jackson Memorial Hospital	Mercy Hospital	Westside Regional Medical Center
Jackson North Medical Center	Miami Dade College	
Jackson South Community Hospital	Mount Sinai Medical Center	
	Nicklaus Children's Hospital (fka Miami Children's Hospital)	

About the Nursing Consortium of South Florida

The Nursing Consortium of South Florida, founded in 1997, is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation whose strength lies in being the nexus for collaboration by the nurse leaders of its member organizations; South Florida's leading hospitals, nursing schools, staffing agencies, and foundations. The Consortium's mission is to identify and address factors causing a nursing shortage in South Florida. It unites nursing practice and education from across the region to address the area's need for culturally and technically competent nurses, by cultivating interest in nursing careers, by advocating for the interests of the profession, and by improving the public's understanding of nursing concerns and the perception of the nursing profession. For more information on the Nursing Consortium of South Florida please go to www.nursingconsortium.us or contact Ralph Egües, Executive Director, at egues@nursingconsortium.us, 305-669-9644 or 305-216-6425.

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