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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 6, 2015 – The Nursing Consortium of South Florida, a non-profit coalition of hospitals, nursing schools, and health care staffing organizations, has once again organized the Day in the Life of a Nurse™ program 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, this year’s program co-chair 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 **forty-one** South Florida facilities and **forty-four** schools are scheduled to participate this year. “More than 1,000 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, and touring a surgical room where they may handle high tech equipment. 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, and a passion for life-long learning.”

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	Jackson Memorial Hospital	Nova Southeastern University
Barry University	Jackson North Medical Center	(Davie Campus)
Bethesda Hospital East	Jackson South Community Hospital	Nova Southeastern University
Boca Raton Regional Hospital	JFK Medical Center	(Kendall Campus)
Broward Health Medical Center	Jupiter Medical Center	Palm Beach Atlantic University
Broward Health Medical Center	Keiser University - West Palm Beach Campus	Palms West Hospital
Chamberlain College of Nursing	Larkin Community Hospital	South Miami Hospital
Cleveland Clinic Florida	Mariners Hospital	Southeastern College
Coral Gables Hospital	Memorial Hospital Miramar	St. Mary's Medical Center
Delray Medical Center	Memorial Hospital Pembroke	Sylvester Hospital
Doctors Hospital	Memorial Hospital Regional	University Hospital & Medical Center
Holy Cross Hospital	Memorial Hospital West	University of Miami Hospital
Homestead Hospital	Miami Children's Hospital	Wellington Regional Medical Center
	Miami Dade College	West Coast University
		West Kendall Hospital
		West Palm 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 or 305-669-9644.

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