

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Camille Baldwin, Practical Nursing Instructor, at High Tech Center Central Named Certified Nurse Educator**

#### **Certification Exam Marks Second Anniversary with a CNE in Every State**



The Lee County High Tech Center Central's Practical Nursing program is pleased to announce that Camille Baldwin has earned the designation Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) after successfully completing a rigorous certification examination developed and administered by the National League for Nursing.

Ms. Baldwin has been with the program since 2004. She graduated from West Texas A & M University in 1996 with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing and continued her education in 2006 at Florida Atlantic University to be awarded with a Master's of Science in Nursing Education on August 11, 2007.

The NLN's CNE program has conferred new visibility and stature upon the academic nursing community, long overdue, said Dr. Beverly Malone, CEO of the NLN. "Through the certification program, we have made clear to the ranks of higher education that the role of nurse educator is an advanced professional practice discipline with a defined practice setting and demonstrable standards of excellence," she commented. In years to come, she added, it is hoped that certified nurse educators will command higher salaries and be first in line for promotions and tenure.

The newly certified nurse educators reflect the spectrum of their academic colleagues in the United States\*:

- Thirty-three percent hold doctoral degrees; the remainder master's degrees
- Forty-six percent teach in baccalaureate or higher degree programs; 40 percent in associate degree programs; 9 percent in diploma programs; and 5 percent in practical nursing programs
- Sixty percent hold the rank of assistant professor or higher: 17 percent are full professors; 20 percent, associate professors; and 23 percent, assistant professors
- Thirty-six percent have more than 15 years experience as academic nurse educators.

With nearly half (46 percent) projected to retire within the next decade and nearly three-quarters (72 percent) within 15 years, replacing them is of grave concern, noted NLN president Dr. Elaine Tagliareni. "We must encourage more nurse faculty to prepare for certification as nurse educators so that our nursing schools can be staffed by academicians of the highest caliber. Only in this way can excellence in nursing education be ensured for another generation."

The NLN unveiled the CNE program in 2005, with 174 passing the examination that first year – an 85 percent pass rate – representing 50 states and the District of Columbia. As of March 31,

2008, a total of 954 nurse educators, representing every state, have earned the CNE credential nationwide with an overall pass rate of 83 percent.

\*Demographic data reflects those who took the examination 9/28/05 through 3/31/08.

**Editors and reporters: For interview opportunities, please contact NLN chief communications officer, Karen R. Klestzick, at 212-812-0376, [kklestzick@nlm.org](mailto:kklestzick@nlm.org).**

Dedicated to excellence in nursing education, the National League for Nursing is the premier organization for nurse faculty and leaders in nursing education offering faculty development, networking opportunities, testing and assessment, nursing research grants, and public policy initiatives to its 23,000 individual and 1100 institutional members.

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