



# *Press Release*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For Information Contact:**

**Dr. Spicer Bell, President**

**Or**

**Mrs. Erica Joseph, Program Officer for Grants**

**410-742-9911**

**joseph@cfes.org**

## **PARTNERS IN NURSING CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR**

*Mentoring program actively addresses local nursing workforce issues*

**(October 31, 2007)** – Partners in Nursing (PIN), a local nursing support initiative, celebrated one year of successfully implementing a mentoring and leadership development program on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. PIN is one of 10 original grantees partially funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Northwest Health Foundation.

Leaders of the community assembled at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore's Non-Profit Resource Center in Salisbury for the event. The program is funded through a grant administered by the Community Foundation.

Attending the celebration were Louise Gulyas, Worcester County Commissioner Vice President, and Wicomico County Council President John Cannon. Leaders in the nursing community attendance included Dr. Carolyn Elmore, Maryland Nurses Association President Sandra Bryan, Maryland Hospital Association Vice President Dr. Catherine Crowley, and Maryland Board of Nursing's Workforce Commission Director Dr. Patricia Kennedy.

Partnering organizations were recognized with plaques for their participation. Funding partners included the following: Peninsula Regional Medical Center (Director of Planning and Business Development Dr. Doug Wilson, and Vice President of Patient Care Services Karen Poisker), Atlantic General Hospital (Vice President of Patient Care Services Colleen Wareing and Education Coordinator Bonnie Mannion) and McCready Memorial Hospital (Vice President Myrna Bozman).

Educational partners included: Salisbury University (Department of Nursing Chair Dr. Susan Battistoni), and Wor-Wic Community College (Dean of Occupational Education Tim Sherman and Department Chair of Nursing Dr. Denise Marshall). Genesis Salisbury Rehabilitation and Nursing Center (Director Bob Lanza and Director of Nursing Jane Ruark) were recognized for their participation as a site partner in the PIN program.

The guest speaker at the event was Dr. Mary Hansen, a member of the National PIN Advisory Board. Dr. Hansen noted that the Maryland State Commission on the Crisis in Nursing has projected that by 2012 it is projected there will be a statewide deficit of 17,116 registered nurses. Maryland

Hospital Association announced earlier this year that nursing vacancy rates increased to 13 percent in 2006, up from 10 percent in 2005. That means to be fully staffed with permanent nurses, Maryland hospitals would need approximately 2,340 more nurses within the next five years.

The goal of the PIN Program is to address the critical retention issue with first-time nurses or those returning to the profession. PIN strategies include providing increased support in the development of nurse leaders while placing current nurses and faculty in rewarding leadership roles while also increasing the number of potential new nursing faculty at the local university and community college.

This creative professional development program addresses all three concerns by teaming new nurses, known as protégés, with mentors during the first year of work and building a support network linking the protégés with nurse education program faculty and the larger nurse leadership community.