

NEWS Release



83 mark graduation from Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing

Bridgeport, CT (May 13, 2015) – A total of 83 students celebrated their graduation from the Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing May 4 (51 in the traditional two-year class and 32 in the 16-month accelerated program). The ceremony was held in the University of Bridgeport's Arnold Bernhard Center for the Arts and Humanities, with friends and families looking on.

This year's graduates are from communities throughout Connecticut, including Hartford, Litchfield and New London counties. (See full list of graduates and their hometowns at end of release.) More than 20 students received awards for special achievement, including Brenden Martin of Branford for the highest grade point average in the traditional class and Michele Banks of Derby for the highest average in the accelerated class.

"The Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing was the vehicle that helped each of us get to where we wanted to go," said graduate Erin Carey of Beacon Falls, who delivered the class message. "We can only repay our debts in one way – by being the best nurses we can be."

The commencement speaker was Mary Jane Williams, RN, PhD, chair of Government Relations, Connecticut Nurses Association, who spoke about the importance of professional transformation.

"Your perspective will change as you move forward," Williams said. "This may present a challenge to you but is essential to the development of your nursing practice. Develop a broader perspective. Think critically. Examine new perspectives with an open mind."

Hospital leaders, including President and CEO William M. Jennings, Chief Nursing Officer MaryEllen Kosturko and School of Nursing Director Linda Podolak presided over the ceremony.

"It is with great pride that I welcome you to the profession of nursing," Kosturko told the graduates. "You have endless possibilities. I urge you to take every one of them."

Last year, the school of nursing signed an agreement with UB to transition its current two-year RN diploma program to a four-year BSN program to meet expected higher educational standards for hospital-based nurses.

Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing Accelerated Class (completed studies December 2014)

Michele Banks, Derby
Kidesha Black, Bristol
Tara Bruce, Bridgeport
James Capuano, Stratford
Erin Carey, Beacon Falls
Juanita Cavallaro, Waterbury
Jessica Dziala, Bristol

Grantley Grant Jr., Bridgeport
Michelle LeFay, Southington
Nicole Lynch, Wilton
Steven Mallon, Fairfield
Danielle Massaro, North Branford
Kaleigh Mierzwinski, Litchfield
Sabrina Nelson, New Haven
Kathy Nhan, Meriden
Susana Odoom, Stamford
Charles Ollero, Waterbury
Alyssa Papotto, Meriden
Marcus Rabovsky, Milford
David Raccio, Cheshire
Jamie Rondinelli, Manchester
Mark Rugarber, Monroe
Kristen Ruge, Orange
Kathleen Savage, Bristol
Erin Sherman, West Haven
Meghan Simpson, Bristol
Loren Thompson, Bridgeport
Hayley Vyas, Stratford
Tina Worden, Middlebury
Rebecca Wright, Wallingford
Valarie Yeaton, West Haven
Omera Young, Bridgeport

Traditional Two-Year Class (completed studies May 2015)

Megan Anderson, Bridgeport
Vathsana Athitang, Bridgeport
Andrew Baldwin, Stratford
Joanna Barbosa, Milford
Ashley Bauchmann, Wallingford
Ashley Brown, Shelton
Alicia Colquhoun, Stamford
Katelynn Cotto, Shelton
Christina Curtiss, Wallingford
Winter DeFeo, Stratford
Cinthia DeFreitas, Bridgeport
Veronica DeJesus, Bridgeport
Allyson DuBois, Shelton
Alyssa Edwards, Waterbury
Veronica Ernst, Shelton
Melissa Francetic, Milford
Tammy George, Branford
Ashley Gomes, Stratford
Laura Guardiano, Derby
Megan Haberman, Orange
Donna Heath, Woodbridge
Donda Hilke, Southington
Brigid Keeney, Stratford
John Kozlowski, Shelton
Monica Lage, Monroe
Jessica Luyckx, Guilford

Victoria Lynch, West Haven
Bradley Martin, South Windsor
Brenden Martin, Branford
Elizabeth Masi, Southbury
Claudia Matos, Bridgeport
Mallory McArthur, Bridgeport
Kara McDonald, Oxford
Stephanie McEwen, Sandy Hook
Shaileen Morton, Milford
Odette K. Nkuilin, Stratford
Cassandra Parker, Colchester
Kaitlyn Paz, Bridgeport
Marlene Piscioniere, Seymour
Alexandra Porter, Westbrook
Katherine Ritter, Milford
Leigh Russ, Woodbridge
Shaun Ryan, Monroe
Bailey Scharpf, Hamden
Elisabeth Scollard, Darien
Lisa Stein, Fairfield
Margaret Struzik, Trumbull
Michelle Tartaglio, Stratford
Monica Torres, Meriden
Devon Wendel, Brookfield
Heather Wilson, Stamford

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Bridgeport Hospital, part of Yale New Haven Health System, is a 383-bed acute care hospital (plus 42 beds licensed to Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital) serving parts of Fairfield and New Haven counties. The hospital admits more than 18,000 patients and receives more than 240,000 outpatient visits annually. The Connecticut Burn Center at Bridgeport Hospital is the only burn center in the state and one of only 62 verified burn centers in the U.S.