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Connecticut Hospital Association to Recognize Yale-New Haven Hospital's Patricia Worthy, RN, MS, as a 2013 Healthcare Hero

WALLINGFORD – At its 95th Annual Meeting on June 25, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Patricia Worthy, RN, MS, manager, Workforce Diversity, Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH), as a 2013 Healthcare Hero. She was nominated for this award by Paul Patton, Vice President, Administration, Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Ms. Worthy began her career at YNHH in 1966 as a unit secretary, with the dream of one day becoming a nurse. Hers was not the most straightforward of paths: she left YNHH to be a stay-at-home mom, went to school, returned to YNHH in 1972 as a licensed practical nurse in the Surgical ICU, and returned to school to earn her RN and associate of science degree in nursing. In 1978, she became a staff nurse in the neuropsychiatric evaluation unit; in 1986, she was promoted to nurse manager in the adolescent psychiatric program.

In anticipation of a major hospital restructuring in 1997, senior management tapped Ms. Worthy's nursing experience and well-known diplomatic skills to lead a team to redesign the organization's nursing model. Following that assignment, she joined Human Resources and managed the Training Department. In 1999, Ms. Worthy was appointed manager, Workforce Diversity, where she was charged with ensuring the diversity and cultural competence of YNHH's workforce.

Over the years, Ms. Worthy has developed programs, classes and even scholarships that help YNHH create a diverse workforce. She has created programs that encourage employees to attain their full potential within the hospital, and ensure that they get the education they need to keep pace with the healthcare industry so they can continue to provide safe, exceptional patient care.

On Ms. Worthy's travels throughout the hospital, she seeks out employees who might be interested in advancement. She asks them to call her or visit her office where she might discuss *School at Work*, the popular eight-month program that has graduated seven classes of employees who may have been away from the classroom for up to 20 years but who want more education or training so they can advance.

One of Ms. Worthy's signature projects is *School to Career*, which pairs juniors in New Haven high schools with employees whose jobs interest the students. Through the years, YNHH has hired many of these students. School to Career also includes a program that prepares and supports high school juniors interested in becoming nurses. A number of them are now in nursing school or working at YNHH as nurses – some with the help of a YNHH Minority Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship – another of Worthy's projects.

Ms. Worthy was born in South Carolina, raised in New Haven and attended Hillhouse High School. She has resided in Hamden since 1976.

CHA's Healthcare Heroes award was developed in 2002 to celebrate the invaluable contributions of healthcare workers, both to their field and to the community at large. Now in its 12th year, the presentation of the Healthcare Heroes awards has become a highlight of CHA's Annual Meeting.



Patricia Worthy, RN, MS

About CHA

The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, diversity, and hospital reimbursement.