

## **Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing exits on a high note**

BRIDGEPORT, CT (May 15, 2017) – After 133 years of educating nurses from throughout Connecticut, Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing – the state’s oldest nursing school – held its final commencement ceremony May 1 as it prepares to transition from two-year diploma program to four-year bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program at the University of Bridgeport this fall.

The transition is prompted by a 2010 Institute of Medicine report and other national patient safety recommendations to raise nursing education standards. BHSN’s Surgical Technology program will transition to Housatonic Community College (HCC) in the fall and be elevated to an associate’s degree program. The BHSN Sterile Processing program will also move to HCC.

“You got started – now keep going,” was the message repeated over and over to graduates by Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing Director Linda Podolak at the ceremony in UB’s Arnold Bernhard Center for Arts and Humanities. “Today is a beginning. Be open, learn from your experiences and find the leader within to provide the best care to your patients.”

Despite the bittersweet occasion that precedes BHSN’s transition to UB, the mood of the 30 graduates from the accelerated class of December 2016 and 50 from the traditional class of May 2017 was celebratory. (See class lists below.)

“This is a day we not only celebrate memories as the school closes but we also look ahead to the future,” said MaryEllen Kosturko, Bridgeport Hospital Senior Vice President of Patient Care Operations and the School of Nursing. “Stay involved in the nursing profession and it will open doors for you.”

Delivering the class message, Angela Miano of Trumbull, who had the highest grade point average (GPA) in the accelerated class, said, “We wear many different hats and perform many different roles but at the center of it all is our patients. They may forget what you did and what you said but they will never forget the way you made them feel.”

Coincidentally, another Trumbull resident, Lisa Eldridge, had the second highest GPA in the accelerated class, while Haley Krivensky of Oxford and Raimonda Skeryte of Milford had the highest and second-highest GPA in the traditional class. They were among two dozen students who received special awards and scholarships at the commencement.

### **Class of December 2016**

Beacon Falls – Kristi Hames, Amanda Perez

Branford – Elizabeth Lionetti, Thomas Lydtz

Bridgeport – Pierre Barthelemy, Mirna Diaz, Yolanda Hall

Cheshire – Allison Ciociola

East Haven – Angelina DeMarco

Hamden – Jessica Jones, Naim Langston, Sunny Ruggeri

Monroe – Michael Silva

North Branford – Tamara Rusconi

Norwalk – Sandy Armatis

Prospect – Stephanie Kolodziej

Seymour – Mary-Kate Durette, Tiffany Kubik

Shelton – Kaitlin Dalton, Jessica Kuhn

Stratford – Jalice Bryan

Trumbull – Lisa Eldridge, Angela Miano

Wallingford – Adam Boyer, Matthew Haley

West Haven – Jodi Burton, Michelle Nachand, Alex Opuszynski

Woodbridge – Anndrea Hollingsworth, Deborah Rardin

### **Class of May 2017**

Ansonia – Matthew Clifford

Bethel – Julianna Lavras

Bridgeport – Raquel Arce, Nicole Carvalho, Abria Scott, Martine Thelusma, Judyath Thomas, Jessica Vasquez, Jaevaun Wallace, Ajin Yousif

Brookfield – Erica Rende

Derby – Amanda Nealy

East Haven – Kaitlyn Vance

Fairfield – Ernesta Gadalla

Hamden – Rachel Edelman, Annemarie Franco

Killingworth – Marina Annino

Meriden – Marlene Acosta

Middletown – Trevor Laverngne, Jessica Walsh

Milford – Samuel June, Raimonda Skeryte

Monroe – Georgette Archer

New Haven – Jeremy Day, Michelle Kearns, Twonisha Wright

New Milford – Nikki Michelsen

Newtown – Christopher Capozza

North Branford – Brittany Panaroni

North Haven – Keilan LaBranche

Oxford – Haley Krivensky

Seymour – Diana Dlugolenski, Amanda Frankel, Jill Kalici

Shelton – Danielle Battaglia, Brian Jakabcin, Amy Mulkern, Piotr Niedzwiecki

Sherman – Lisa DeBetta

Southbury – Melissa Casey

Southington – Kayla Commendatore

Stratford – Susan Demers, Briana Workman

Trumbull – Megan Morabito, Alexandra Moreira

Waterbury – Ethna Etienne, Alexis Morales

West Haven – Stacey Fields

Winsted – Jessica Valenta

Wolcott – Spenser Griffin

*Bridgeport Hospital, part of Yale New Haven Health, 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 20,000 patients and receives nearly 300,000 outpatient treatments annually. The Connecticut Burn Center at Bridgeport Hospital is the only burn center in the state and one of only 64 verified burn centers in the United States.*