



VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION
SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT INC.

News Release

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For Immediate Release



Photo caption (left to right): John R. Quinn, President & CEO of the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central CT (VNA/SCC); Melissa Kurtz of Yale School of Nursing; Brianna Brennan of Southern CT State University; Katherine Alessi of Quinnipiac University; Rosemarie Vaccaro of Gateway Community College; Leah Richards of Sacred Heart University; and Ellen Russell Beatty, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the VNA/SCC.

Five Local Nursing Students Receive Nightingale Scholarships

The VNA of South Central CT hosted the 2011 Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing Scholarship Reception

New Haven, CT (April 19, 2011) – John R. Quinn, President & CEO of VNA Health Systems, and Ellen Russell Beatty, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, recently co-hosted the 2011 [*Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing*](#) Scholarship Reception at the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut (VNA/SCC) in New Haven. Nursing students from five local nursing schools were each honored with a \$1200 scholarship. Since 2006, the *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* has awarded \$33,000 in scholarships.

Scholarships were awarded to the following students: Rosemarie Vaccaro of Gateway Community College; Katherine Alessi of Quinnipiac University; Leah Richards of Sacred Heart University; Brianna Brennan of Southern Connecticut State University; and Melissa Kurtz of Yale School of Nursing.

“One of the goals of the Nightingale Awards is to inspire future nurses and there is no better way to do so then to provide scholarship support to outstanding local nursing students,” said Quinn. “The scholarship recipients excel academically and give back to their communities as well as volunteer their clinical skills abroad to serve vulnerable populations.”

The Nightingale scholarships are supported by the sponsorships of *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing*, which is celebrating its 11th anniversary this year on May 5th at the Toyota Presents Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford. The *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* program was originally developed in 2001 by the [Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut](#) to be a collaborative effort to celebrate outstanding nurses and elevate the nursing profession. The goal of the Nightingale Awards are to encourage retention, inspire future nurses, focus public attention on and recognize the breadth and scope of nursing practice at the local level. In 2003, the *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* grew to include programs in Greater Fairfield, Greater Hartford, and Eastern CT as well as the original program in New Haven.

The *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* are non-competitive and inclusive of all health care settings - hospitals, home health care, health centers, schools, health departments, long-term care facilities, nursing schools, agencies, and medical practices. *Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners who demonstrate excellence may*

be nominated for recognition by their employers if they are involved in clinical practice, leadership, scholarship, and/or education. To learn more about the May 5th event or to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.nightingalenursingawards.org/newhaven/>.

Sponsorship opportunities for the event are still available. For more information about becoming a sponsor or supporting the awards event, contact Jennifer Bernheim, Public Relations Coordinator, at 203-859-6765 or email nightingale@vnascc.org. Major sponsorship benefits include attending a private pre-event reception with Edward Kennedy, Jr.

About VNA Health Systems

VNA Health Systems is comprised of the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut (VNA/SCC) and CareSource, Inc.

Founded in 1904, the VNA/SCC, which is the original VNA of New Haven, Milford and the Valley, is a state licensed, non-profit, community-based home health care agency. The VNA/SCC staff consists of highly skilled nurses, therapists, medical social workers and home health aides. A vital resource to the communities it serves, the VNA/SCC provides a wide range of specialized clinical services, community programs, the Nurturing Families Network and subsidized care, through United Way funding, to those who are in need. The agency employs over 230 staff members, has an average daily census of over 1,000 patients and makes over 170,000 home visits per year. The agency is the founder of the *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing*. The VNA/SCC is supported in part by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, local United Way organizations, corporate sponsors and individual donors. To learn more about the VNA/SCC visit www.vnascc.org.

CareSource strives to maximize the quality of life for its clients and their caregivers in the home and health care settings. Their services include homemakers, companions and live-in aides. To learn more about CareSource visit www.caresourceinc.org.

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