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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Napier Named As West Virginia Center for Nursing Executive Director**

**Charleston** -- Duane F. Napier, MSN, RN, BC was recently named Executive Director for the West Virginia Center for Nursing. As Executive Director, Mr. Napier will serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the WV Center for Nursing, with responsibility for overseeing fiscal, personnel, and strategic planning, convening meetings and other functions necessary to meet the Center's goals as set forth in HB4143.

Mr. Napier is a native West Virginian. He is a graduate of St. Mary's School of Nursing in Huntington and Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky and is currently attending Duquesne University. His most recent position was as Assistant Professor of Nursing at St. Mary's/Marshall Cooperative ADN Program in Huntington. His nursing experiences include staff nurse positions in critical care, home health care, medical/surgical, telemetry, and psychiatry. Past leadership positions have been in acute and in-patient psychiatric care as Clinical Director, Nurse Manager, Case and Risk Management, Quality Improvement, and Director of Nursing. He is also very active in nursing organizations, is an appointee to the WV Board of Licensed Practical Nurses, is Vice President of the St. Mary's Alumni Association, and was selected as one of 28 nurse leaders statewide to participate in the WV Nursing Leadership Institute. "Mr. Napier's past experience cuts across many sectors of nursing practice, education, regulation and administration. These experiences make him well suited to lead the WV Center for Nursing in its mission to strategically plan for West Virginia's nursing workforce needs for the future" said Cynthia Persily PhD, RN, FAAN, Chair of the WV Center for Nursing Board of Directors.

The West Virginia Center for Nursing was created by Legislation in July 2004 to address the issues of recruitment and retention of nurses in West Virginia. The WV Center for Nursing seeks to enhance and strengthen nursing excellence to optimize the health and health care of all West Virginians, through strategic workforce planning, education, research, and nurse practice development.

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