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West Virginia Center for Nursing Annual Report Released

Charleston, WV -- The West Virginia Center for Nursing Board of Directors today announced the release of the first annual report. It is the first report with regards to the nursing shortage since the Nursing Shortage Study Commissions report in 2004.

"This report serves to emphasize areas in need of attention to assure an adequate workforce for the future," stated Duane F. Napier, executive director. "The West Virginia Center for Nursing is a vital component for stabilizing and creating an environment that attracts and retains a nursing workforce that will provide the quality of safe care deserved by each and every patient in West Virginia." The report examines the aging workforce where the mean age of Registered Nurses in 44.7 years and for Licensed Practical Nurses 43 years. West Virginia continues to lose nurses to our surrounding neighbor states. Wages are lower in West Virginia than the National median. In addition, there is a real threat to the shortage as our nursing faculty look at retirement.

The areas of recruitment and retention drive the board of directors in the development of strategies and initiatives to address the nursing shortage. This Center will also provide a forum in which related professional organizations will communicate and collaborate to support revising initiatives to strengthen the workforce.

The West Virginia Center for Nursing was created by the legislature in March 2004 through the passage of HB 4143. The West Virginia Center for Nursing seeks to enhance and strengthen nursing excellence to optimize the health and healthcare of all West Virginians, through strategic workforce planning, education, research, and nurse practice development. The Center is funded through a \$10 surcharge paid by all licensed practical nurses and registered nurses at the time of their annual license renewal. For specific information regarding the West Virginia Center for Nursing and other work of the Center, or to read the annual report, please visit our website at www.wvcenterfornursing.org, or contact Duane F. Napier, Executive Director, at 558-0838.

30