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Qualified Students Turned Away from WV Nursing Schools

Charleston , WV -- The West Virginia Center for Nursing Board of Directors today announced only 66 percent of qualified RN applicants and 56 percent of qualified LPN applicants were admitted to West Virginia nursing programs for the 2006 academic year.

"The inability to accept every qualified nursing applicant into our RN and LPN programs is troubling during this time of a nursing shortage in West Virginia," said Duane Napier, executive director of the West Virginia Center for Nursing.

The 17 RN programs in West Virginia reported 1,827 total qualified applicants. These schools admitted 1,202 and were not able to admit the remaining 625 applicants, according to Duane Napier.

The 23 LPN programs reported 1,337 total qualified applicants. These schools admitted 759 and were not able to admit the remaining 580 applicants.

"There are three major reasons our West Virginia nursing schools are unable to admit every qualified applicant," said Napier. "Those reasons are an inadequate number of faculty, an insufficient number of seats in the schools, and inadequate number of clinical sites in which to train the students. The West Virginia Center for Nursing and its partners are committed to addressing each of these issues."

The West Virginia Center for Nursing Board of Directors is committed to developing strategies to address the inability to accept all qualified applicants. 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

Friday, August 24, 2007

specific information regarding the West Virginia Center for Nursing and other work of the Center, please visit our website at [www.wvcenterfornursing.org](http://www.wvcenterfornursing.org), or contact Duane F. Napier, Executive Director, at 558-0838.

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