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The Pulse

Laurel Ridge Community College Nursing News

Welcome to the Laurel Ridge Foundation's first issue of *The Pulse*! We hope our nursing alumni will enjoy receiving news and updates.

Since 2002, nearly 1,200 students have earned an associate degree in nursing from Laurel Ridge. Our graduates make an enormous difference in the health of our communities!

Something to Celebrate: Nursing Program Receives National Re-Accreditation through Spring 2030

If you haven't heard the good news, the associate of applied science in nursing degree program has been granted continuing accreditation through spring 2030 through the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The program first received accreditation by ACEN in 2017. Both the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education

Commission recognize ACEN as the accrediting body for nursing programs.

"This is a very high bar to achieve and is definitely something to celebrate!" said Laurel Ridge President Kim Blosser. "It's an important validation that our nursing program meets high standards of educational quality."



Laurel Ridge Welcomes New Dean of Health Professions

Dr. Scott Vanderkooi, EdD, NRP, joined Laurel Ridge this summer as the new dean of health professions. He previously served as associate dean and EMS program director at Blue Ridge Community College in Virginia.

"Laurel Ridge has the ability to directly impact our community—healthcare in particular—in so many positive ways,"

said Dr. Vanderkooi. His goal is to build a more holistic experience that exposes students to the rapidly changing environment of medicine, including advancements in medical research, technological changes, interprofessional collaboration, and effective soft skills. Well-rounded, career-ready graduates will help alleviate the strain on current providers.

Private Support Critical to Laurel Ridge Nursing Grads



In May, 55 students earned an associate degree in nursing from Laurel Ridge.

Of those graduates, 27 received a total of 63 scholarships or emergency assistance grants from the Laurel Ridge Foundation, adding up to **\$110,000 in support.**

These funds are available thanks to the generosity of alumni and other donors. Will you support the next generation of Laurel Ridge nurses? A donation of any size to our **Nursing Fund** will make a difference. Please consider paying it forward with a gift of your own at laurelridge.edu/donatenow.



Since 2022, Laurel Ridge holds a special commencement for all health professions graduates on the Middletown Campus lawn, followed by the pinning ceremonies.

Nursing Alumni Event a Success

The Laurel Ridge Foundation hosted the first annual nursing alumni cocktail reception on June 7 at Region's 117 Restaurant on Lake Frederick. Almost every graduating class since 2002 was represented—some driving several hours to attend. During her welcome remarks, President Kim Blosser proudly noted, "Many people over the years have been eager to tell me about a wonderful nurse from Laurel Ridge who helped them or a family member."

Laurel Ridge nursing professor Kate Regula ('13) shared the story of her path to nursing—from government major at UVA to human resources professional to a nursing degree from Laurel Ridge, while raising children. Kristina Simpson thanked the faculty in attendance for their hard work, especially with the successful ACEN accreditation. While

Simpson is leaving her position as director of nursing, she is staying in the region and will continue to be an enthusiastic advocate for the nursing program.

Visit the link below to view the event photos. We hope to see you next year!

laurelridge.edu/nursingalumni



Above: Laurel Ridge President Kim Blosser gives our nursing alumni a round of applause and encourages them to consider serving as clinical faculty.



Left: Nursing professors Kate Regula ('13) and Liza Marshall reunite with alumni from the Class of 2013.