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*The collective voice of Long Island's  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **LI Nurses Recognized for Excellence**

### ***Nassau University Medical Center Nurse and Freeport Resident Takes Top Honor***

(Hauppauge, NY . . . May 25, 2012) Nurse leaders from Long Island's hospitals and nursing education programs gathered Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at the Woodbury Country Club to bestow recognition upon their nurse peers at the Nurse of Excellence Award Ceremony hosted by the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC). One nurse from each of the Hospital Council's member hospitals was nominated for this award, which recognizes outstanding leadership and clinical practice. Deans of area nursing schools also submitted nominations recognizing nursing excellence in education.

***Freeport resident and Nassau University Medical Center (NUMC) staff nurse Anuli A. Erike BSN, RN***, took the top honor as Long Island's "Nurse of Excellence." Erike is a staff nurse on NUMC's Orthopedic/Bariatric Unit and is credited with helping the hospital achieve a Bariatric Center of Excellence designation. Diabetes prevention education geared toward the young adult population at home and abroad is another of her nursing passions. Erike was selected from a field of about 500 nurses at hospitals and teaching institutions from across Long Island.

A nurse for just two years, Erike has made a significant difference in her home community of Freeport, the NUMC patient community, and distant communities in Nigeria, where she self-funded a medical mission to that country to teach hospital patients and visitors about diabetes care and prevention. Closer to home, Erike collaborated with the Mayor of Freeport and produced public service health segments for local television about diabetes prevention. She was motivated to take action when she discovered that Freeport's rate of Type 2 diabetes far exceeds state and national averages. With a partner she co-founded the Get AHEAD initiative - **Get Active Healthy Education Awareness Disease prevention-based nutrition and lifestyle education** program for youth.

"Nurses are the true champions of our hospitals and our local communities, too," said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of NSHC. "Anuli's compassion for her patients and her clinical nursing expertise are unmatched."

The Hospital Council's annual salute to nurses is fashioned after the New York State Legislature's Nurse of Distinction Program that ended in 1995. NSHC is one of the few hospital associations in the state to continue this program voluntarily. It is now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year. The NSHC represents Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals.

For more information about this program and a full listing of nominees, visit [www.nshc.org](http://www.nshc.org).

**(See Photo on page 2 . . . MORE)**



From left: Patricia Darcy, MS, RN-BC-NE, Chief Nursing Officer and VP of Patient Care Services at Southampton Hospital and Chair of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council Nurse Executives Committee; 2012 Nurse of Excellence Winner Anuli Erike, BSN, RN; Kathy Skarka, MSN, RN, Chief Nursing Officer, Nassau University Medical Center; and Gara Edelstein, MSN, RN, Chair of NSHC Nurse of Excellence Sub-committee and VP of Administration and Chief Nursing Officer at St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center.

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