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*The collective voice of Long Island's
not-for-profit and public hospitals*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Long Island Nurses Recognized for Excellence

St. Francis Hospital Nurse, Garden City, NY Resident Takes Top Honor

May 24, 2016 (Hauppauge, NY) Nurse leaders from Long Island's hospitals and nursing education programs gathered Wednesday, May 18, 2016 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 and clinical practice.

Garden City resident Eileen Dwyer, BSN, RN, OCN, infusion unit nurse manager at St. Francis Hospital, Cancer Institute rose above a field of 26 nominees. Those nominees were selected from a field of about 500 nurses at hospitals and teaching institutions from across Long Island.

Dwyer challenges herself and her staff, "to put their heart into cancer care every day." With more than 30 years' experience as an oncology nurse, Dwyer said she realized early on in her career that this patient population needed and deserved highly-skilled nursing care. To assure this level of care, the unit achieved 100 percent oncology nursing certification due to Dwyer's leadership and guidance. The unit began in 2013 as a 14-chair infusion unit and by 2015 moved to an off-site location and is now a 32-chair unit. A true advocate for all her patients and their families, Dwyer has encouraged her staff to join her in many fund raising activities, such as charity walks and runs. "My goal for the infusion center was to offer individualized care with a multidisciplinary approach, along with compassion and, most importantly, a personalized touch," said Dwyer.

"Nurses are the backbone of our hospitals on Long Island and across the United States," said Alan Guerri MD, chair of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and CEO of Catholic Health Services of Long Island. "The physician is at the patient's bedside just a few minutes each day. It is up to the nurse to implement the care plan."

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 21st 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.

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From left: Gara Edelstein RN, MSN a member of the Nurse Excellence Sub-Committee and Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services/Chief Nursing Officer, Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center and Catholic Health Services of Long Island; 2016 Nurse of Excellence Winner Eileen Dwyer RN; Ann Cella RN, Senior Vice President Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer, St. Francis Hospital; Valerie Terzano MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Chair of the Nurse Excellence Sub-Committee and Senior Vice President of Nursing/Chief Nursing Officer, Winthrop-University Hospital.

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