

I

Contact: Diane Powers [diane.powers@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:diane.powers@dhp.virginia.gov)  
804/367-4524

**For Immediate Release**

January 24, 2012

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DATA CENTER**  
**RELEASES A *PROFILE OF VIRGINIA NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS***  
**2010 annual survey of practical and registered nurse education programs shows a 6.1 percent**  
**increase in graduates**

**WHAT:** The 148 practical nursing and registered nursing education programs approved by the Virginia Board of Nursing responded to an online Department of Health Professions (DHP) Healthcare Workforce Data Center (HWDC) survey of the 2009 – 2010 academic year to capture facts and trends.

*A Profile of Virginia Nursing Education Programs* online at <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc/> describes programs, students and faculty critical to an understanding of the availability of newly graduated nurses to meet the healthcare needs of eight million Virginians.

Highlights of the report include:

- An increase in registered nurse admissions in the last two academic years projects an increase in the number of graduates anticipated in the next few years;
- Nurses are entering a challenging labor market and are likely to face increased competition for jobs;
- Among nursing education programs there is a wide range of National Council for Licensure Exam (NCLEX) pass rates. Passage of the NCLEX is a requirement for licensure.
- Many nursing education programs had unfilled spaces in 2010 as a result of unqualified applicants, student financial issues and student cancellation or failure to attend; Among Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) well over one-third left their education program permanently before graduation; and,
- On average, the attrition rate among Registered Nursing (RN) students was 16 percent during the reporting period. Growth in the number of nursing graduates continued throughout the recent recession.

**WHO:** Content experts available for comment on the report include:

- Director of the DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center, Elizabeth Carter, Ph.D.
- DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center Research Associate Justin Crow, M.P.A.
- Deputy Executive Director, Board of Nursing, Paula Saxby, R.N., Ph.D.;
- Executive Director, Board of Nursing, Jay Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.;

**WHY:** The Department of Health Professions Healthcare Workforce Data Center works to improve the data collection and measurement of Virginia's healthcare workforce through regular assessment of workforce supply and demand issues among the 80 professions and 350,000 practitioners licensed in Virginia by DHP.

DHP healthcare workforce data is provided online to ensure accessibility of the findings among healthcare decision makers, hospital systems, academic institutions and constituents statewide.

DHP's mission is to ensure safe and competent patient care by licensing health professionals, enforcing standards of practice, and providing information to health care practitioners and the public.

# # #