

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



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Florida Keys Community College Celebrates National Nurses Week



Key West, FL, May 1, 2009—Florida Keys Community College invites the community to celebrate National Nurses Week with a presentation, exhibit and reception on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 10:00am in the Library of the college's Key West campus. National Nurses Week, celebrated annually throughout the United States, begins May 6, marked as RN Recognition Day and ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of the nursing as a modern profession.

FKCC's exhibit, aligned with this year's theme of "Nurses: Building a Healthy America", will showcase the 43-year history of FKCC's esteemed Nursing and Allied Health Programs and the many successful graduates who have worked hard to save lives and improve health in the Florida Keys. FKCC has trained nearly 1,000 nurses since its establishment in 1966. Many of these graduates continue their education, although a large number enter the program already holding graduate and doctoral degrees, but hoping to find a more fulfilling career in nursing. Locally, FKCC graduates work as nurse practitioners, health care administrators, and nursing educators throughout the Keys. FKCC Nursing alumni also have a long history of serving Monroe County with fundraising, providing care for the homeless, HIV education and prevention efforts, and health screening in the public schools.

"I am very proud to be working with such dedicated nursing students and faculty," says Norman Olsen, FKCC's Dean of Allied Health and Nursing. "Our students in the Florida Keys are some of the most compassionate and hardworking students I have ever met. They are committed to giving back to this community. They exemplify tolerance, caring, advocacy, and scholarship."

The event will begin with guest speaker, Kim Basset, RN, who is CEO of Fishermen's Hospital and FKCC Trustee. She will discuss how nurses make a difference in our daily lives. There will also be

presentations by FKCC Nursing professor Liz Jankowski about the benefits and methods of smoking cessation, as well as by FKCC Student Nursing Association president, Bob Guhl.

Following the reception, Olsen will give an information session for prospective students. Other representatives and faculty from the nursing program will be available to advise and answer questions about the college's Allied Health program, which includes Addictions Studies and Emergency Medical Technician training, in addition to Nursing.

Next Friday, May 8th, FKCC will graduate 23 more nursing students, who will surely go on to contribute to improving the overall health of our community. The traditional Nursing Pinning ceremony will take place at 1:00pm in the auditorium of Key West High School, prior to the general FKCC graduation at 7:00pm in the Tennessee Williams Theatre of FKCC's Key West campus.

For more information about FKCC's Nursing and Allied Health Programs, visit the website at www.fkcc.edu.

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