

Lakewood Regional Medical Center Strives To Address National Nursing Shortage

According to the United States Department of Health & Human Services, the number of folks 65 years or older in 2008 represented 12.8 percent of the population – or about one in every eight Americans. By 2030 that number is expected to reach 20 percent, further increasing the need for healthcare professionals across the board.

Hospitals nationwide are gearing up to recruit, train and retain registered nurses to help care for the aging population.

Locally, Lakewood Regional Medical Center is addressing the nursing shortage by offering the Versant Residency Program, an 18-week residency designed for nurses by nurses to prepare aspiring RNs for their first jobs.

"Lakewood is investing in its nursing staff to provide a higher standard of care for the community," says Chief Nursing Officer, Jodi Hein. "This program will increase our staff numbers and better prepare our nurses for the professional and emotional aspects of their careers."

"The residency program not only benefits patients, but nurses, ancillary staff, administrators and physicians," she adds.

The rigorous training curriculum of the Versant Residency Program

includes: instructor-led courses featuring current and emerging clinical guidelines; clinical preceptors who provide personalized bedside training; debriefing sessions that offer a forum for exchange among participants; mentors who provide personal support and career development; and an online tool to monitor participants' progress.

"I am excited that Lakewood Regional Medical Center and Tenet Healthcare have the foresight to invest in our future



nurses," says Assistant Chief Nursing Officer and Versant Program Coordinator, Terri Newton. "The program can only improve the quality of care that this hospital provides."

To apply for the Versant Residency Program at Lakewood Regional Medical Center, contact Human Resources at 562-602-6725.