



CUTLINE: Southern State Community College's 45th graduating class in the practical nursing program includes (first row, l-r) Paula Scott, Cayla Lindberg, Megan Reyes-Rosales, Jessica Clutter, Laura Hart; (second row, l-r) Ryan Battista-Pride, Karla Carson, Devona Shelton, Sara Reifenberger, Marci Mickle, Haley Blake, Destiny Jodrey; (third row, l-r) Charity Hilgeman, Steffani Robins, Rebecca Gross, Penny Clark, Melinda Wise, Gentry Adams; (fourth row, l-r) Deena Davis, Cailee Christman, Holly Vermillion, Shelby Murphy, Brooke Hayner; (fifth row, l-r) Tim Lewis, Kristen Shaffer, Nelson Tharp, Pam Henderson, Brittany Click, Heilery Mefford; (sixth row, l-r) Darren Polley, Josh Villars, Stephanie Rabon, Katharine Neu; (back row, l-r) Diana Smith, Tammy Lower and Carmella Biscoe. Absent from the photo were Diane Brenner, Shana Jackson and Mitch McManis.

Southern State's practical nursing program honors 39 graduates

The 45th graduating class of Southern State Community College's practical nursing program was honored during a special pinning ceremony held August 10 on the college's Central Campus in Hillsboro. Thirty-nine students were recognized for completion of the college's one-year certificate program.

"The pinning ceremony is a long-time tradition of nursing and it truly is a medal of courage and perseverance," said Dr. Julie Krebs, SSCC Director of Nursing. "These individuals are truly deserving of this medal."

The most recent graduates include Gentry Adams of Hillsboro, Ryan Battista-Pride*# of Georgetown, Carmella Biscoe of Hillsboro, Haley Blake*# of Leesburg, Diane Brenner# of Blanchester, Karla Carson of

Williamsburg, Cailee Christman of Winchester, Penny Clark*+ of Hillsboro, Brittany Click Georgetown, Jessica Clutter# of Sardinia, Deena Davis of Lynchburg, Rebecca Gross of Wilmington, Laura Hart of Hillsboro, Brooke Hayner*# of Washington Court House, Pam Henderson# of Higginsport, Charity Hilgeman+ of Winchester, Shana Jackson of Ripley, Destiny Jodrey# of Winchester, Tim Lewis*# of Mt. Orab, Cayla Lindberg of Wilmington, Tammy Lower* of Washington Court House, Mitch McManis+ of Bethel, Heilery Mefford of Seaman, Marci Mickle*# of Washington Court House, Shelby Murphy# of Hillsboro, Katharine Neu*+ of Sardinia, Darren Polley# of Seaman, Stephanie Rabon of Blanchester, Sara Reifenberger of Sardinia, Megan Reyes-Rosales of Greenfield, Steffani Robins*+ of Greenfield, Paula Scott# of Washington Court House, Kristen Shaffer# of Greenfield, Devona Shelton of Winchester, Diana Smith*+ of Leesburg, Nelson Tharp# of Hillsboro, Holly Vermillion# of Washington Court House, Josh Villars# of Sabina and Melinda Wise*^ of Wilmington (* denotes Phi Theta Kappa honor society; # denotes Cum Laude 3.5-3.74 GPA; ^ denotes Magna Cum Laude 3.75-3.89 GPA; + denotes Summa Cum Laude 3.9-4.0 GPA).

Following the pinning ceremony, Shana Jackson and Jessica Clutter were announced as the recipients of the Licensed Practical Nursing Association of Ohio's free one-year membership.

"It is my honor to share in this celebration with you," said Dr. Kevin Boys, SSCC President. "The good news is: I read an article in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* today that says the prospects for nurses continues to be good for a long time. I have to say how proud I am, not only of each of you, but also the faculty and our program which has been rated top in the nation."

The SSCC practical nursing graduates currently are ranked No. 1 in the nation in first-time pass rates on the NCLEX-PN licensure examination administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

"I encourage you to take everything you've learned here into practice," said Dr. Boys. "And I hope this isn't the end of your journey; I hope you plan to continue your education so you become the professional you set out to be when you first entered the doors at Southern State Community College."

The Practical Nursing program at Southern State is a certificate program combining lecture classes, lab practice and clinical experience designed to prepare the graduate to be eligible to complete the licensure examination (NCLEX-PN) to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. Students have the option of completing the first-year Practical Nursing Program and, at that point, can choose to stay and complete the second-year Associate Degree Program, or to test for licensure and begin work as an LPN.

To learn more about Southern State Community College's nursing programs, please visit www.sccc.edu/academics/associate/nursing.shtml, or call Sue Leach at 1-800-628-7722, ext. 2640.