



Pictured are members of Richmond Community College's Practical Nursing Class of 2017. They are, from left, Front row: Chelsi Hernandez, Jessica Wilkes and Jessica Kirwin. Second row: Kanestra Wall and Whitney Brown. Third row: Becky McDonald, Mikala Greene and Gina Jordan. Back row: Sabrina Copeland and Tara Gurano.

10 Graduate from Richmond Community College's Practical Nursing Program Recently

Graduates include Anson students, Sabrina Copeland and Kanestra Wall

Ten graduates of the Practical Nursing program at Richmond Community College exited the Cole Auditorium on July 18 with lighted lamps in a symbolic gesture of beginning a journey into a noble profession. Among those graduating were Sabrina Copeland and Kanestra Wall of Wadesboro.

The Practical Nursing pinning ceremony is the culmination of the yearlong program, which prepares graduates to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN) in order to become a licensed practical nurse (LPN).

Dr. Dale McInnis, RichmondCC president, welcomed everyone to the pinning ceremony and congratulated the graduates on behalf of the Board of Trustees and faculty and staff. He thanked the family and friends who supported the students over the past year and also acknowledge the nursing staff for producing another class of quality nurses.

"Tonight we celebrate the accomplishments of 10 very special young ladies," McInnis said. "We look forward to them entering a new phase in their lives and a new career."

Vice President of Quality for FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Cindy McDonald, guest speaker for the ceremony, provided words of wisdom and encouragement to the next group of nurses. She said the pinning ceremony was a milestone for these students whose hard work, dedication, endless hours of study, and hours of tears had paid off. "Soon you will be one of the elite. Nursing is one of the most trusted professions in the nation," she said.

McDonald stressed the importance of continuing to learn and treating others with respect to provide the best healthcare experience for the patient and his or her family. "I realized very quickly that I had a lot to learn and that learning did not end when I received my degree and it will not end with yours. In fact, it's just starting," she said. "As a nurse it was my expectations that I go above and beyond for my patients and the families that I took care of. I promise you the blessings you give your patients will be returned to you a million times more. You have an incredible opportunity to make a difference in someone's life every single day you go to work."

Graduates were presented nursing pins by Nursing Department Chair Janet Sims and nursing instructor Heather Cox. The graduates were also presented a long stem rose by nursing instructor Judith Thompson.

Eight nursing awards were presented for outstanding achievements. Wall received three of the awards and Copeland received one.

Wall received the FirstHealth Richmond Memorial Hospital Compassionate Caregiver Award, which is presented by FirstHealth Richmond Memorial Hospital to the graduate who best exemplifies the traits of caring, compassion, empathy and family-centered nursing practice. She received the Practical Nursing Faculty Award, which is presented to the graduate who has shown a commitment to nursing and education while overcoming personal and academic obstacles. Wall also received the Dr. Diane Honeycutt Practical Nursing Education Academic Excellence Award, which is presented by Dr. Diane Honeycutt to the graduate achieving the highest grade point average in recognition of his or her exceptional effort and academic accomplishments.

Copeland received the James Edison Sellers Sr. Memorial Nursing Award, which is presented by the family of James Edison Sellers to the graduate who has shown the most care and compassion to cancer patients. As Practical Nursing Class of 2017 president, Wall provided a video tribute to her classmates recounting their time as nursing students over the past year.



CHURCH HOMECOMING & Revival

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10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
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