



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **2016 Nursing Summit Addresses The Role of the Nurse in Population Health**

On December 2, 2016, Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (AHEC) presented the 2016 Nursing Summit, entitled *Cultivating Healthy Communities: The Role of the Nurse in Population Health* at Marist College to a sold-out audience of eighty nursing and other health professionals. The purpose of this program is to provide an educational forum to discuss the various components of a population health infrastructure and the key role of nurses within this framework toward cultivating healthy communities.

The concept of population health lies in supporting a culture of health through various activities that include research to evaluate health-related trends, consideration of socioeconomic and cultural variables, seeking opportunities to provide health education to support wellness and manage chronic disease, as well as developing community-based partnerships to enhance access to and delivery of care.

Presentations included, *Cultivating Healthy Communities: The Role of the Nurse in Population Health* by Patrick Coonan, EdD, Med, MPA; *The Role of the Public Health Nurse: Promoting Health Systems for the Prevention of Chronic Disease* by Carol Wanyo, RN, BSN, MA; *Health Equity: The Role of the Provider Toward Improving Access to Health Services* by Kenya Beard, EdD, GNP-BC, NP-C, ACNP-BC, CNE; *Initiatives for At-Risk Populations: Emergent Issues in Behavioral Health & Suicide Prevention* by Anita Daniels, RN-BC, MS; and *Supporting Autonomy and Continuity Through Care Navigation: A Multidisciplinary Approach for Managing Opioid-Seeking Patients* by Ann Marie Guntlow, RN, BSN, CEN and Maria Gonzalez, RN, BSN, CEN.

Post-program evaluations reinforced the significance of the program's content and its value to attendees with observations, such as: "This program was excellent; from its organization, to the passion, expertise, and dynamism of the speakers," and "This is the best program of continuing education I have attended. It was very informative and important!"

This event offered 5.25 contact hours awarded by the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association. Support for this program was provided by Westchester Medical Center Health Network PPS, Marist College, Adelphi University, and New York Life.

The Nursing Summit is an annual flagship program developed and offered by Catskill Hudson AHEC; a non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality, geographic distribution and retention of healthcare professionals and stimulating interest in health professions careers through innovative programs across its 11-county service area.

For additional information on current and future programs, please visit [www.CHAHEC.org/programs](http://www.CHAHEC.org/programs) or call (845) 883-7260.

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