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For Immediate Release

KELLY SHIRLEY NAMED 2014 OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR

Charlotte, NC – Kelly Shirley, Director and faculty member of the School of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, is much admired and appreciated for her outstanding instructional and leadership abilities. She truly exemplifies the College's values of caring, commitment, integrity and teamwork in her service to the College and to her faculty and students.

Kelly's career in healthcare and education began in 1984 as a medical technologist at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte after her graduation from Appalachian State University in biology and chemistry, and from Mercy Hospital's Medical Technology program. In 1986, Kelly moved to a blood bank technologist position at Carolinas Medical Center, and later moved up to lead blood bank technologist and assumed responsibilities as an immunohematology instructor. Kelly transitioned to a faculty position at Carolinas College of Health Sciences when the medical technology (now medical laboratory science - MLS) program became part of the College in 1999. While in that position, she earned a Master's degree from University of Phoenix with a concentration in curriculum and technology. In 2011, Kelly assumed the School's leadership role in addition to teaching responsibilities. Kelly models the use of innovative classroom methods and instructional technology and is quick to help others learn new teaching methods and technologies. Her students greatly respect and admire her, often stopping by her office to chat, get advice, instructional help, and chocolates - which she always has to share! Her students describe her as an effective, caring, and humble educator-leader who gives her team members and her students credit for the programs' successes.

Kelly is an excellent role model for faculty and students. She sets high goals for herself and helps others achieve their goals by consistently focusing on quality performance. She led the MLS team through a very successful National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS) program accreditation review in 2012. Her students consistent 100% first-time pass rate on their American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) Board certification exams demonstrates the effectiveness of her teaching, leadership, and mentorship of the program. Additionally, the consistent 100% placement rate of MLS graduates indicates how well Kelly leads her faculty and instructs her students in preparing them to be "first-choice" hires within Carolinas Healthcare System (CHS) and by other healthcare organizations.

In response to a local and national need, and a CHS administration request in 2012, Kelly accepted the challenge of quickly developing a histotechnology (HTL) education program. Within a very short time period, Kelly coordinated a team that recruited a nationally recognized coordinator for the program, developed the program curriculum, negotiated development of a student laboratory for the program, solicited and accepted student applications, and subsequently graduated the first class of HTL students in December, 2013. Kelly concurrently led the program through preparation of an initial application for program accreditation. A recent accreditation review by NAACLS resulted in a perfect "no recommendations" review -- an almost unheard of accomplishment for a new HTL program.

Another academic offering that Kelly initiated and helped develop is the fully online Specialist in Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine certificate program. This new program exemplifies how Kelly models innovation in the application of educational technology for her faculty and her students. Kelly and the newest faculty member in the MLS program developed and marketed the completely online program which accepted its first students in late 2013. Kelly is highly respected within her profession. She has been a long-time active member of the North Carolina Association of Blood Bankers, and is currently serving as secretary for that organization. She has also built strong, collaborative relationships with leaders and personnel within the Carolinas Laboratory Network which benefit the College, CHS, and our students.

Despite all her professional activities and responsibilities, Kelly is an actively engaged “mom” to two grown sons and a devoted spouse to her husband, Tony. She is an active member of Calvary Church in Charlotte and of several leadership groups and committees within the college and the community. CCHS is very fortunate to announce Kelly Shirley as its 2014 Outstanding Educator.

[Carolinas College of Health Sciences](http://www.CarolinasCollege.edu) (www.CarolinasCollege.edu), recently ranked the number one two-year college in the nation for two consecutive years, offers programs in many areas of health care. Graduates consistently exceed state and national certification testing benchmarks, demonstrating their exceptional preparedness in careers such as medical laboratory science, nursing, radiation therapy, histology, radiologic technology, and surgical technology. The College also offers individual courses in the sciences and liberal arts as well as continuing education programs in professional skills and integrative medicine. Carolinas College offers student access to the Carolinas Simulation Center, a rich collection of high fidelity human patient simulators and procedural task trainers.

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