

**May 2015 Commencement Speaker**  
April 8, 2015  
For Immediate Release



### **Dr. Santopietro Named May 2015 Commencement Speaker**

**Charlotte, NC** – Carolinas College of Health Sciences has secured Dr. John Santopietro, chief clinical officer for Behavioral Health at Carolinas HealthCare System to be the commencement speaker at the graduation ceremony on May 8, 2015. The ceremony will be held at Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church in Charlotte at 7:00 pm.

For the last 15 years, Dr. Santopietro has been devoted to transformation of the current healthcare delivery model in order to improve care for patients suffering with mental illness. He has held leadership positions in community mental health, public and private hospital systems, and has worked in Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut. He has taught on psychiatric leadership nationally and is passionate about the need for clinical leadership in solving the substantial challenges which confront the healthcare community and the community at large when it comes to behavioral health. "With the current focus on mental health and Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), Dr. Santopietro is an excellent choice to speak to our graduating students," states Dr. Hampton Hopkins, dean of student affairs at Carolinas College.

Dr. Santopietro graduated cum laude with a degree in psychology and philosophy from Yale University, obtained his medical degree from Northwestern University Medical School, and completed his internship, residency in psychiatry and fellowship at Harvard Medical School. He is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, is a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and member of the American Association of Community Psychiatrists and American College of Physician Executives. He has served as president of the Connecticut Psychiatric Association and as an appointee to the Connecticut Mental Health Commissioner's advisory board.

Carolinan College of Health Sciences ([www.CarolinanCollege.edu](http://www.CarolinanCollege.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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