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For Immediate Release

SHEPPARD RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

Charlotte, NC – Dr. Ellen Sheppard, President of Carolinas College of Health Sciences, has been named by *Mecklenburg Times* as one of the area's **50 Most Influential Women**. Recipients were honored at a formal gala on May 29, 2015. The honorees represent the most influential women in business, government, education, and not-for-profit fields that live and work in the Charlotte metro area. A panel of independent business leaders choose honorees based on their professional accomplishments, as well as their involvement in the community. Recently, Sheppard was also recognized by the Charlotte Business Journal as one of Charlottes Top 25 Women in Business.

Sheppard is being recognized for her many professional accomplishments and for the role she plays in educating future healthcare providers. Since Sheppard has been with Carolinas College of Health Sciences (CCHS), part of Carolinas HealthCare System, the school has grown from a small, single-purpose nursing school, to a fully accredited, multi-program college preparing providers to enter nearly a dozen healthcare fields. Twice in the last five years, under Sheppard's leadership, CCHS has been recognized as the Number One two year college in America. Said Sheppard, when notified of the award bestowed by *Mecklenburg Times*, "I am so honored by this recognition, but want to give credit where it is due. Whatever success I've had and recognition I've earned is due to the amazing students, staff, and faculty at Carolinas College, and the amazing support provided by Carolinas HealthCare System. Students come to CCHS extraordinarily motivated to join the healthcare workforce. My job is an easy one: pairing smart, eager students with highly skilled faculty, within an environment that places patients at the center of all that we do and all that we teach.

Dr. Hampton Hopkins, dean of student affairs, stated "Ellen cares very deeply about the success of the College, the teammates who work with her to accomplish the college's mission and vision, and the students who place their trust in the education provided. In her two decades at the college, every decision she's made has had that at its core."

Sheppard serves on several community boards, including the Girl Scouts Hornets Nest Council, and the MPWRS program – the area's longest running mentoring program for executive women in healthcare. Her undergraduate degree from James Madison University as well as her masters and doctorate degrees all focus on education and educational leadership. For more information about the 50 Most Influential Women award and the 2015 nominees, visit <http://nclawyersweekly.com/50-most-influential-women/>.

[Carolinan 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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