



# NEWS

Subject: Cabarrus College Faculty, Staff Earn Graduate Degrees

Date: March 7, 2011

For Release: Immediate

Concord, N.C. — Four [Cabarrus College of Health Sciences](http://www.cabarruscollege.edu) (www.cabarruscollege.edu) faculty and staff recently earned graduate degrees.

Lindsay Belden, MSN, RN, associate degree nursing faculty since 2008, was awarded her master of science in nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her academic program had an emphasis on advanced practitioner of nursing training, focusing on advanced adult and primary care nurse practitioner training. Belden, a registered nurse for more than 12 years, is currently an instructor for Mental Health Nursing.

Mark Ellison, Ed.D., director of admissions, earned his doctorate in Adult Education from North Carolina State University. Ellison's dissertation research focused on the restorative benefits of hiking in wilderness solitude and the relationship to job satisfaction. He is also developing a course based on his dissertation that explores the connection between nature, the environment and human health. Ellison has served as director of admissions since 2003.

Shuna Harper, MSN, RN, associate degree nursing faculty since 2009, graduated from Strayer University with a master of science in nursing, with a focus on healthcare service administration and education. Harper has been a registered nurse for 19 years. She serves as an instructor for Mental Health Nursing, as well as Family Health Nursing.

Valerie Rakes, MSN, RN, associate degree nursing faculty, was awarded her master of science in nursing from East Carolina University. The program focused on nursing leadership in healthcare education. Rakes is currently an instructor for Mental Health Nursing and Family Health Nursing. She has been a registered nurse for 22 years and has taught at Cabarrus College for more than two years.

For more information contact Mark Ellison, Ed.D., [mellison@cabarruscollege.edu](mailto:mellison@cabarruscollege.edu), 704-403-1616.



Belden



Ellison



Harper



Rakes

**For more information contact Mark Ellison, Ed.D., [mellison@cabarruscollege.edu](mailto:mellison@cabarruscollege.edu), 704-403-1616.**

#### **About Cabarrus College of Health Sciences**

Cabarrus College of Health Sciences, an affiliate of Carolinas HealthCare System, is located on the campus of Carolinas Medical Center-NorthEast in Concord, North Carolina. Five hundred and fourteen students are enrolled in six associate degree and three baccalaureate completion programs. Associate degree programs include medical assistant, nursing, occupational therapy assistant, pharmacy technology, surgical technology and associate in science. Baccalaureate completion programs include health services leadership and management, medical imaging and nursing. The College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). For additional information go to [www.cabarruscollege.edu](http://www.cabarruscollege.edu).

#### **About Carolinas HealthCare System**

[Carolinas HealthCare System](http://www.carolinashealthcare.org) ([www.carolinashealthcare.org](http://www.carolinashealthcare.org)), one of the leading healthcare organizations in the Southeast, includes 33 affiliated hospitals in North and South Carolina. CHS provides a lifetime medical home to all patients through a network of some 600 care locations that includes hospitals, health care pavilions, physician practices, surgical and rehabilitation centers, home health agencies, nursing homes and other facilities. These operations comprise more than 1,700 employed physicians, 6,300 licensed beds and 48,000 employees.

For more information contact Mark Ellison, Ed.D., [mellison@cabarruscollege.edu](mailto:mellison@cabarruscollege.edu), 704-403-1616.