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For Immediate Release

**PRESIDENT OF CAROLINAS COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES, ELLEN SHEPPARD,  
NAMED TOP WOMAN IN BUSINESS**

**Charlotte, NC** – Dr. Ellen Sheppard, president of Carolinas HealthCare System’s Carolinas College of Health Sciences, was recently recognized as a top female leader at the Charlotte Business Journal’s 18th Annual Women in Business Awards Ceremony on June 3.

The event honors 25 outstanding women who have made significant contributions to their professions and to their communities during the past year. The recipients were carefully selected from nominations submitted by senior managers, colleagues, friends and employees.

“Ellen is one of the most effective, strategic leaders I’ve ever met and always carries with her a positive attitude and unceasing energy,” said Mary Hall, MD, chief academic officer for Carolinas HealthCare System. “The quality of the College and its educational programs is evidenced by Ellen’s leadership....”

In her role, Sheppard is responsible for leading the Carolinas College of Health Sciences, located on the campus of Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, as well as administrative oversight of the nurse anesthesia program. For two consecutive years, the College was named the No. 1 two-year college in the nation and consistently graduates top-performing clinicians. When Sheppard joined the college in 1994, it offered just one program – nursing. Today it enrolls students in twelve different credit and non-credit programs, all directly related to Carolinas HealthCare System’s current and anticipated workforce needs. In 2012, its School of Nursing celebrated a 91 percent graduation rate, one of the highest in the nation, while also boasting a near perfect NCLEX pass rate. For 28 or the last 29 years, 100 percent of the College’s radiologic technology students passed their registry exams on the first attempt, and for the eighth consecutive year, 100 percent of its medical laboratory science graduates passed the national certification exam on the first attempt. In 2012, the College became one of only eight schools in the nation—and the only one in North Carolina—to offer a post-baccalaureate histotechnology program, 100 percent of whose eligible graduates last year were hired by Carolinas HealthCare System.

Sheppard focuses on building strong relationships, locally and globally, and on providing new opportunities for her students. A personal passion is travel, resulting from following her father – a career army aviator – around the globe and living in places like Taiwan, Bavaria, and Anchorage. With Dr. Robicsek’s help, she’s developing a student experience at a hospital in Belize. Sheppard explains, “With help from the Hieneman Foundation and student tuition, selected students will get to see healthcare in an underdeveloped nation and - along with a supervising faculty member – provide education and enrichment for Belize nurses.” In 2002 she initiated the annual Alumni Abroad trip to introduce graduates to parts of the world they wouldn’t otherwise see. “It’s completely funded by our alumni, and strengthens their connection with their alma mater. I love seeing our travelers’ eyes opened to the richness of other lands, other cultures. Often, the first few days in a foreign country, a young alumnus who’s never

traveled outside the US is consumed with looking for golden arches! But by trip's end, she's tried new foods, met new friends, and developed deep respect for people who look, speak, and dress differently than she does. That experience is life changing."

A career educator, Sheppard finds the intersection of healthcare and education particularly rewarding. "Our team of amazing faculty provides students – many of whom have prior degrees and previous careers - the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in a purposeful, rewarding profession." Sheppard gives much credit to the rich clinical experiences provided by Carolinas HealthCare System, and the role modeling students receive from CHS preceptors and clinicians. "Our students don't learn only what's in textbooks. They hear how an interprofessional team communicates; they observe innovation in action; they participate in patient safety and infection prevention activities. To an educator, nothing is more rewarding than knowing that what you're teaching really matters."

Sheppard, mother of two and grandmother of three, received her bachelors in English and secondary education from James Madison University, her masters in educational leadership from Tarleton State University, certification in vocation-related education from Texas A&M University, and the doctorate of education in higher education leadership from Nova Southeastern University. She is celebrating her twentieth year with Carolinas HealthCare System this year.

[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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