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For Immediate Release

### **SUSAN STRICKER NAMED 2014 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS**

**Charlotte, NC** – When Susan Poston Stricker graduated from the Charlotte Memorial Hospital School of Radiography in 1960, it was a 15-month diploma program, offered at the hospital and structured on the apprenticeship model. X-rays then were developed in chemical trays in darkrooms. As a science relatively new to medical care, radiography was still considered mysterious and definitely not for the fainthearted. But Susan, a native of Davidson, loved the idea of combining science with healthcare, and of studying a field little understood by the general populace.

Upon graduating, Susan worked for five years as a radiologic technologist at Charlotte Memorial. One of her not-so-fond memories is of so infuriating a young cardio-thoracic resident, Dr. Francis Robicsek, with a minor error she made, that he literally chased her out of the hospital. But thankfully for generations of future radiography students, she returned the next day.

In 1965 Susan was asked to direct the program from which she'd graduated. She rolled her sleeves up and set her sights on developing the program into one which would be known and envied throughout the region. And that she did. There were tumultuous years as the hospital experienced unrestrained growth and economic boom as well as years of recession and personnel cuts. A low point was the year the hospital flooded and the program, then located in its basement, lost all student files and much of its equipment and resources.

By the time she retired, after 47 years in the field, she'd earned a bachelor's degree in health studies from Western Michigan University, had been a member of both state and national societies of radiologic technologists, and had served on accreditation site visits. She'd led the program through milestones such as:

- Full program accreditation by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology.
- Imaging transitions that spanned from wet film processing in a dark room, to daylight development, and finally to digital imaging.
- Incorporation into the program of advanced modalities: Mammography, CT, MRI.
- Construction of an energized student laboratory.
- Degree granting status.
- 22 consecutive years of 100% of her students passing the registry exam on the first attempt.
- Program demand and selectivity such that only one in eight applicants is likely to be accepted.

Upon Stricker's 2007 retirement, students, alumni, colleagues, friends, and teammates amassed enough support to start a fully funded, endowed scholarship in her honor. The silver bracelet presented by the college on that occasion was inscribed with words that hint at her rich legacy: "For the Lives You've Touched." Indeed, all full-time radiologic technology faculty members and one member of the College's Board of Directors were students of Susan's, and all credit her with significant influence on their success.

Since retiring, Susan's been an active alumnus, attending meetings, personally presenting the Susan Stricker Scholarship each year, serving on the Development Committee, and actively supporting the alumni phoneathon with both her gifts and her presence. In 2014 she attended every night of the phoneathon, encouraging and assisting nervous students as they made their first fundraising calls. On a personal note, Susan and spouse Jack, a member of Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, live in Waxhaw and enjoy gourmet culinary adventures and spending time with their numerous pets.

[Carolinas College of Health Sciences](http://www.CarolinasCollege.edu) ([www.CarolinasCollege.edu](http://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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