

REECE NAMED OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS

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For Immediate Release



JEFF REECE NAMED 2008 OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS

Charlotte, NC – Jeff Reece came from humble beginnings. His father was a grounds keeper for NC highway rest stops; his mother, cashier and hotel housekeeping staff. But they worked hard to provide for their family of five and to instill confidence and ambition in their children. Clearly, they succeeded: Jeff holds two graduate degrees and is chief nursing officer and director of all clinical operations for a South Carolina hospital. He’s accomplished it all with determination, intelligence, persistence, and his belief that with the right attitude and hard work, one can accomplish anything.

After earning a baccalaureate degree in Emergency Medical Care from Western Carolina University in 1991, Jeff worked as a paramedic in Franklin, NC, then as a ground transporter for Carolina Medical Center’s Med Center Air, a full time position he held while earning his nursing degree at Carolinas College of Health Sciences. “I got off work at 7 a.m. and went straight to class or clinical. It wasn’t easy!” he remembers. While at Carolinas College he was president of the Student Nurse Association (SNA) and VP of the Student Government Association. As president of SNA, he led fundraising efforts which allowed the chapter to take an entire delegation to the national conference, the only time in College history that happened. The first recipient of the Cynthia Favorite Scholarship, a scholarship named in honor of a deceased graduate of the College, Jeff graduated from Carolinas College in 1997.

As a new nurse, Jeff worked in neonatal intensive care at Carolinas Medical Center until he was recruited by Springs Memorial Hospital in Lancaster, SC, to an emergency department position – his first love. Springs Memorial Hospital is part of Community Health System, a 173-hospital system based in Brentwood, TN. In five short years, he received promotions and new responsibilities quickly: House Supervisor, Director of Intensive Care, Director of Infection Control and Employee Health, and Director of Risk Management. He was a natural for the next step in his career, the position of Chief Quality Officer for Chesterfield Hospital in Cheraw, SC, also a Community Health facility. As one of four key administrators, he reported directly to the hospital CEO. Always wanting to learn more, he enrolled in the concurrent MSN/MBA program at University of Phoenix in 2004, and graduated summa cum laude in 2007.

In December 2005 Jeff became Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) for Chesterfield Hospital, the number two administrator. All clinical areas – inpatient and outpatient - report to him, so he manages nursing, radiology, lab, respiratory, physical therapy, cardio-pulmonary rehabilitation, among other hospital departments. In January 2008 he added the role of mentor/trainer for all Community Health System CNO’s in a 7-state region.

Community Service is important to Jeff. He led two fundraising drives for Chesterfield, Relay for Life and March of Dimes, each breaking hospital records! He walks in Duke’s annual fundraiser for brain tumor research. He has written two fully-funded grant proposals for new

services in prenatal care and emergency response. Jeff also served his alma mater as president of the Carolinas College Alumni Association in 2002. Jeff is a stellar example of a distinguished CCHS alumnus: one who gives back to his patients, his profession, his community, his alma mater, and his family; and who does so with distinction!

Carolinas College of Health Sciences is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges to offer associate of applied science degrees, diplomas and certificates. Offered are programs in health care education leading to careers in nursing, surgical technology, radiologic technology, medical technology and emergency medical sciences, as well as individual classes in the sciences and liberal arts.

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