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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DeKalb Workforce Development Partners With DeKalb Medical Center *Program helps nurses retain jobs*

DECATUR, Ga. – Interim CEO Lee May commends DeKalb Workforce Development (DWD) in its strategic efforts to retain a strong workforce in DeKalb County. In a partnership with DeKalb Medical Center, DWD helped nursing staff retain their jobs through the Incumbent Worker Training and Internship Programs.

The Incumbent Worker Training program afforded current DeKalb Medical Registered Nurses (RN) with Associate Degrees the opportunity to obtain a Bachelors' Degree in order to remain employed with DeKalb Medical Center. "This is one of the many innovative services offered through DeKalb Workforce Development, which helps good people get good jobs," said Interim CEO Lee May.

Georgia State University and Clayton State University partnered with DWD to provide training for the nurses, while DWD covered the tuition of each incumbent nurse, totaling \$130,000. This training initiative was made available to nurses at DeKalb Medical Center's three locations; DeKalb Medical Main, DeKalb Medical Hillandale and DeKalb Medical Downtown Decatur.

As a result of this strategic partnership, all 17 nurse participants will receive their Bachelor's Degree this spring. President & CEO of DeKalb Medical, John Shelton, described this initiative as "a beautiful partnership that marries up extremely well."

DWD also offered an 8-week Medical Assistant (MA) Internship Program with DeKalb Medical Center. This opportunity afforded job seekers valuable hands on experience and training, leading to permanent positions within the Hospital and Physician satellite offices. These participants were new MA's with minimal experience. This initiative has led to an 85% successful full-time employment rate with DeKalb Medical Center.

(more)

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Visit www.dekalbworkforce.org to learn more about DeKalb Workforce Development programs and the Mobile Career Center. DWD is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program and auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Persons with hearing impairments may contact 1-800-255-0135.

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