May 2015

Dear Nurse Colleagues,

Every year, National Nurses Week focuses attention on the diverse ways America’s 3.1 million registered nurses work to save lives and improve the health of millions of individuals. The American Nurses Association (ANA) has selected “Ethical Practice, Quality Care” as the theme for 2015. Annually, National Nurses Week begins on May 6 and ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of nursing as a modern profession.

Across Bellin Health System there are nearly 950 Registered Nurses providing care in a variety of settings. Each year we continue to expand the opportunities for Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Nurses, and now see them in various roles in strategic locations all across the health care continuum. The impact that Bellin nurses have on the health of our population is measurable and evidenced in Bellin’s national quality and safety awards. For the fourth consecutive year Bellin Health was recognized with a Five Star Rating in the Outstanding Patient Experience Award™ from Healthgrades®. This puts Bellin in the top 7% nationally. Also in 2015, Bellin received an “A” Hospital Safety Score grade from the Leapfrog® Group. And we can’t forget that Bellin, in partnership with ThedaCare, ranked as the top performer in the Pioneer ACO Program for overall quality and cost performance.

I believe that Bellin’s success directly correlates with our culture. At Bellin, our values of People, Service, Learn, Improve, and Innovation are embedded within our daily work. As individuals and as part of larger teams, each of you makes an impact every day in your work. Bellin’s patients, families, and the community benefit from all that you give and all that you provide. Every one of you should be so proud of what you do as a nurse.

A sample of some of those efforts can be seen in the form of posters that will be displayed in the Bellin Hospital lobby May 6-12. Take a moment to read them and see the great ways that Bellin nurses are leading the way for not only their patients and families, but for their colleagues and the entire health care industry. There is a link on Julius under Clinical Services, Nursing – and on www.bellin.org/nursing – to a video called “Bellin Nurses ROCK.” The video highlights the fantastic work Bellin nurses have been leading the way with, in our community, our State…and the nation! The link to this video will also be on the banner hanging across Webster Avenue throughout Nurses Week.

THANK YOU to all Bellin nurses for the passion, dedication, caring, and commitment to exceptional outcomes. Your efforts are making a difference to each life that you touch.

Sincerely,

Laura Hieb, BSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC
Chief Nursing Officer