



***WellStar Health System Announces Participation in Nursing Career Pathway Program Pilot***  
*New program will support students' path toward nursing careers*

(MARIETTA, Ga. – July 18, 2019) – WellStar Health System announced today its participation in the Nursing Career Pathway Program Pilot, an industry-driven initiative designed to address the statewide need for nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses and registered nurses with a bachelor's degree in nursing. Hiram, Marietta and McEachern High Schools are planning implementation of the program beginning fall 2019.

The program provides an opportunity for rising high school students with an interest in nursing careers to enroll in college-level nursing courses at Chattahoochee Technical College while still attending high school. Students will progress into a 26-hour nursing prerequisite for dual college-high school credit and earn state nursing aide certification. In addition, WellStar will provide onsite clinical experience throughout the duration of the program.

Once students complete their high school education, the college-level courses will count towards their nursing degree. Students will also receive clinical placements at WellStar and will have the opportunity to interview with WellStar upon graduation.

"We are excited to implement this program as one solution to the state's shortage of nurses," said Jill Case-Wirth, SVP and Chief Nurse Executive, WellStar Health System. "We look forward to identifying students who have a passion for healthcare, nurturing this interest and equipping them with the skills they need to succeed in a nursing role."

The alignment of resources through the HOPE Scholarship, HOPE Career Scholarship and WellStar's Tuition Assistance Program is intended to provide participating students the opportunity to complete their college education with little or no tuition cost.

"This is a real model for how schools, colleges and businesses can come together to forge clear pathways," said Stephen Pruitt, President of the Southern Regional Education.

The Pathway Program was inspired by Senator Lindsay Tippins and an ongoing partnership between the lieutenant governor's office, WellStar Health System, Technical College System of Georgia, University System of Georgia, Chattahoochee Technical College, Georgia Highlands College, Kennesaw State University, Georgia Department of Education, Cobb, Paulding and Marietta City Schools, Georgia Board of Nursing and the Southern Regional Education Board.

### **About WellStar Health System**

WellStar Health System has an unwavering focus on exceeding the expectation of our patients and consumers. This is achieved through the delivery of high-quality care and value to our patients; hiring and retaining world-class, engaged providers and team members; transforming care and payment

models; and maintaining market leadership via intentional and focused growth. WellStar, nationally recognized for its state-of-the-art facilities, includes 11 hospitals, WellStar Clinical Partners and its more than 1,700 physicians, and an array of outpatient facilities and services including more than 250 medical office locations, nine urgent care centers, 19 imaging centers, three health parks, and other services. At WellStar, we embrace diversity as our strength and practice inclusion for all. As a not-for-profit, WellStar continues to reinvest in the health of the communities it serves, and the more than 20,000 WellStar team members are committed to our vision of delivering world-class healthcare. For more information, visit [wellstar.org](http://wellstar.org).