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State Representatives Join Loretto and 1199SEIU at Graduation Celebration Honoring Licensed Practical Nurse Apprenticeship Graduates

Syracuse, NY (August 23, 2024) – Loretto administrators, 1199SEIU leaders, Senator Rachel May, Syracuse Deputy Mayor Sharon Owens, and Deputy Regional Director Julia Leary from Senator Charles Schumer’s office gathered today at Loretto Health & Rehabilitation to celebrate the most recent graduates of the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Apprenticeship Program, the first federally recognized LPN Apprenticeship in the nation.



(Front L-R) 1199SEIU Regional Director Don Fiorelli, 1199SEIU Vice President Kevin Lockhart, Loretto President & CEO Kimberly Townsend, Senator Rachel May, Syracuse Deputy Mayor Sharon Owens

[Loretto’s LPN Apprenticeship Program](#) is the result of a successful labor-management partnership between Loretto, the fourth largest healthcare provider in Central New York, and 1199SEIU, the largest healthcare workers union in the United States. It was developed to help frontline workers overcome the barriers of cost and accessibility to higher education by offering paid on-the-job training, free tuition, mentorship, and guaranteed employment.

Since the program began in 2018, 49 individuals have successfully graduated from the 11-month program, which has a 96% pass rate for the New York State licensing exam (NCLEX). The program is funded by [The Loretto Corporation](#), [1199SEIU UHWE](#), and the [1199SEIU Training and Upgrading Fund](#), which invests over \$65,000 in tuition, wages, and benefits for each student.

1199SEIU Vice President Kevin Lockhart said it's that collaboration that makes the program so successful. "I am excited about the partnership between 1199SEIU and Loretto. Our shared vision and commitment to excellence in education, has allowed us to establish the nation's first LPN Apprenticeship Program. With this program we are able to address a real workplace need, and also create a pathway for continued education and higher skilled level jobs for our members."



(L-R) Academic Manager Tonyal Robinson, Graduate Ashley Kulian, and Director of the LPN Apprenticeship Program Dr. Johaun Jackson

It's that pathway that Dr. Johaun Jackson, Director of Nurse Education at Loretto, says sets Loretto's LPN Program apart from other programs in the region. "This program allows our students to continue to earn money for their families as full-time Loretto employees while furthering their education to advance their healthcare career. Many people can't afford to go back to school full-time, or reduce their schedule to even go part-time because they need to provide for their families; this program invites them to do both, and guarantees employment to all graduates."

The LPN Apprenticeship Program incorporates the classroom learning and skill development required to become a Licensed Practical Nurse with the clinical support and mentorship they need to be successful in the role. All Loretto clinical and non-clinical union employees can apply to the program when they meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement during the annual enrollment period.

Interested candidates must have one year of Loretto experience at the time of program selection and have letters of support from their managers. All prospective students must participate in a thorough interview process by a selection committee comprised of Loretto administrators and 1199SEIU representatives to ensure they are prepared for the rigor and commitment to the program. The program has successfully graduated candidates who started careers at Loretto in food service, housekeeping, and frontline clinical roles such as Certified Nurse Aides (CNA) and Certified Home Health Aides (CHHA).

For more information on the program and how to apply, visit [LPN Apprenticeship Program | Loretto \(lorettocny.org\)](https://lorettocny.org)

About Loretto

Loretto is a leader in comprehensive healthcare services in Central New York. As the fourth largest healthcare provider in the region, 2,400 exceptional people at Loretto's 19 programs and facilities deliver extraordinary care to more than 10,000 people of all ages, income levels, and care needs in Onondaga and Cayuga counties each year. From short-term rehabilitation and community-based programs to the home-like settings in its assisted living communities and skilled nursing facilities, Loretto is actively investing in its employees, in medical research, and in new technologies to improve care in our community, making every day, extraordinary. Loretto: Exceptional People. Extraordinary Care.