



**St. Elizabeth's Hospital  
Marketing Department**

Belleville, IL 62220  
618/234/2120 Ext. 1357  
Fax: 618/222/4748

*From: Craig Steiner*

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For Immediate Release

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RE: St. Elizabeth's Announces RN Residency  
St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Belleville, IL

St. Elizabeth's Hospital is announcing an innovative and exciting program for new graduate Registered Nurses. The Versant RN Residency is based on a program created for Children's Hospital Los Angeles in 1999 and will be the first Residency of this type in the St. Louis Metropolitan area.

Beginning in July 2006, the 18-week Residency provides additional education for 15-20 candidates who are offered staff positions at St. Elizabeth's Hospital when they are accepted into the program. Components of the curriculum include 75% of clinical time and 25% classroom time. Individual preceptor teams as well as individual mentors are assigned to each participant. Innovative, one-on-one attention prevents novice nurses from feeling overwhelmed in their first year of work. Debriefing and Support groups are also provided throughout the residency.

Once in place, the curriculum, performance tracking and evaluation materials will be featured on the Residency's state-of-the-art Web portal. The Web portal automates the manual paper-based processes of training and evaluating new RN graduates. It also expedites scheduling, communication, reporting, and monitoring of program success. The Kick-Off presentation for the program is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18 at 8:30 a.m. in the Centennial Room.

The introduction of such a program differentiates St. Elizabeth's Hospital as a leading choice for RN graduates. It will provide

evidence-based practice in nursing and leverage technology to enable real time reports on newly graduated nurse performance. The overall goal of reducing RN turnover and increasing RN retention is a major factor in the development of the Residency. Not only will it enhance the recruitment and training of new graduate nurses but will also assure skilled nurses for replacement of retiring nurses.

Qualified RN retention is a major goal of hospitals in general, and St. Elizabeth's Hospital is striving to be at the forefront with this progressive and unique program.. The Versant RN Residency's goal is to first stabilize, then increase the RN retention, hopefully achieving an 89% retention rate.

"We are excited to be the leader, the first among healthcare providers in the St. Louis area to introduce a Residency such as this," says Jane Read, Assistant Administrator of Patient Care Services. Jane, who is the executive sponsor for the residency implementation states, "The residency's curriculum and comprehensive structure will help transition our new graduate RN's who are an essential part of our nursing workforce".

More application information will be provided at the Kick-Off event. For an applicant to begin the process, they will need to provide:

- Completed application form, available [www.steliz.org](http://www.steliz.org)
- Current resume
- Specialty/Unit Preference
- Letter of reference from a clinical instructor
- College transcript
- 500 word essay

With 16 facilities participating across the country, over 700 new graduates have completed the Versant RN Residency. The non-profit corporation, created by nurses for nurses, consists of nurse educators, nurse researchers, statisticians and technology experts.