

Catskill Hudson AHEC Dedicated to Nursing Professional Development

Katherine Doyle, Marketing and Program Coordinator, Catskill Hudson AHEC

Congratulations to Roxanna Raffa, MSN, RN, Nursing Workforce Development Coordinator for Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC), for having recently graduated from the New York State Nurses Association's (NYSNA's) Leadership Academy, a year long program with curriculum designed for leadership development.

Roxanna is one of two registered nurses currently employed throughout the NYS AHEC System. As Roxanna's role within CHAHEC is focused on nursing workforce development, her primary responsibility has been to plan and

coordinate CHAHEC's annual Nursing Summit and other nursing continuing education offerings as well as promote the nursing profession through participation at student and professional nursing events. She is also the liaison for the northern tier of CHAHEC's 11-county region.

Roxanna feels "honored to be part of organizations that nurture leadership development, promote professionalism and are willing to invest in the future of nursing." Roxanna's experiences during Leadership Academy have been beneficial to CHAHEC's mission in health care workforce development as she has gained experience and insight for the legislative process and advocacy.



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In her role at CHAHEC, Roxanna understands the importance of remaining connected with professional peers and community leaders as well as being informed and involved with issues pertaining to practice and legislation in order to positively influence the future of her profession and the communities in which she serves. She believes that the health care system is at a pivotal point of change with advancements in technology and research, budget constraints, nursing and other health care workforce shortages as well as other influencing factors, such as the changing needs of our communities at large. These changes often influence current and future health care practices. The ensuing need for change also affects the role of nursing and how nurses will provide care to patients, families and communities.

Roxanna also has the opportunity to mentor students who are interested in pursuing a career in nursing as well as mentor and develop programs for practicing nurses who wish to advance their skills or educational degrees. She sees this as a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to her profession because her efforts could help to develop and positively influence the next generation of nurses and nurse leaders.

Congratulations again to Roxanna for her numerous achievements and dedication to the nursing profession.

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