FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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School nurses to gather at LCTI for state conference
Drug addiction, gender identity, concussion management among workshop topics

SCHNECKSVILLE, Pa. | The nation is in the midst of an unprecedented opioid epidemic and, according to the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania is one of 14 states that saw an alarming rise in drug overdose deaths -- nearly 13 percent -- from 2013 to 2014.

Fortunately, the commonwealth’s school nurses will be prepared to face the problem this fall thanks to a conference organized by the Lehigh County School Nurses Advisory Board and hosted by Lehigh Career & Technical Institute.

Voices of School Health VII is scheduled 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16 and Wednesday, Aug. 17. Nearly 200 nurses dedicated to keeping Pennsylvania’s school-age children healthy are expected to gather at LCTI for the event, which will feature training from the experts at Caron Treatment Centers.

"The opioid epidemic continues to impact individuals and families across the country. Addiction knows no bounds and we need to properly educate our communities and healthcare professionals alike about the complexities of this disease," said Dr. Joseph Garbely, Medical Director at Caron Treatment Centers.

"That's why it’s important we hold educational events like the Voices of School Health conference. School nurses are on the front lines of the drug abuse epidemic, so it's critical for them to be equipped with the appropriate tools for prevention. The goal is to empower them to understand the disease of addiction including signs, symptoms, and co-occurring issues among adolescents and teens," he said.

Caron representatives are scheduled to provide Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment (SBIRT) training during workshops scheduled 12:30-2 p.m. and 2:15-3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

In addition to the opioid epidemic, this year's workshop topics include diabetes and insulin pump therapy, supporting students and families facing pediatric cancer, concussion management and much more. Keynote speakers are slated to address the conference as follows:

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Lehigh Career & Technical Institute | 4500 Education Park Drive, Schnecksville, Pa., 18078 | lcti.org
8:15-11:30 am., Tuesday
Beth Anne Bahn, Director, Pennsylvania Department of Health Division of School Health
DOH Update, Q & A Session

8:15-9:45 a.m. Wednesday
Kristin Jachowicz, Supervisor of Special Education, Lehigh Career & Technical Institute
Accommodations vs. Modifications

2:15-3:30 p.m. Wednesday
Graciela Slesaransky-Poe, Dean and Professor, Arcadia University School of Education
Creating Safe and Gender Inclusive Schools

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About Lehigh Career & Technical Institute
Lehigh Career & Technical Institute is Pennsylvania’s largest career and technical school. Founded in 1971, LCTI each year provides more than 45 skills-based programs of study, as well as academic instruction for about 2,700 students from 10 of Lehigh County’s public high schools. LCTI also offers industry-relevant training and credentials for adults working in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. The school’s state-of-the-art facilities encompass 450,000 square feet on a 47-acre campus in the Schnecksville section of North Whitehall Township. Visit lcti.org for more information about LCTI.