

Press



Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Legislator Paul Recognizes Dedicated Nursing Professionals

New City, NY (May 21, 2015) – In recognition of National Nurses Week, County Legislator Aney Paul presented two outstanding nurses, Frances Pratt and Elizabeth Simon, with Certificates of Achievement in honor of their dedication and professional contributions to the field of nursing and healthcare.

Frances Pratt began her nursing career at Nyack Hospital as a pediatric nurse's aide and eventually earned her nursing degree at Rockland Community College. Mrs. Pratt became the hospital's first African American registered nurse, and rose to the rank of Emergency Room head nurse. Mrs. Pratt also served as the manager of the hospital's Employee Health Services and retired in 2012. Nyack College recently presented Mrs. Pratt with an Honorary Doctorate (Lett.D) in recognition of her outstanding public influence.

Elizabeth Simon is a Dean and Professor at Nyack College's School of Nursing. Ms. Simon began her career in India and has worked and instructed at many hospitals and schools in India and in the New York metropolitan area. In 2015, Ms. Simon was one of 1,100 U.S. faculty and professionals awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to teach abroad. Ms. Simon will travel in October to teach in India for six months.

"We are extremely proud and fortunate that these nursing professionals chose Rockland County," said Legislator Paul, who is a registered nurse, as well. "Since joining Nyack College, Ms. Simon has been able to establish the college's School of Nursing, new undergraduate degree programs and oversaw the construction of a new laboratory and purchase of equipment. Ms. Simon has distinguished herself among nursing professionals and educators and now, proudly, adds Fulbright Scholar to her résumé."

"Frances Pratt is many things, a nurse, a civil rights activist, a humanitarian and a most distinguished citizen of Rockland County," said Legislator Paul. "Frances has mentored many nurses, myself included, and we are all better practitioners because of her input. I am pleased that Nyack College awarded her an Honorary Doctorate. It is just one of many awards that she has received over her career and her many years of activism. It goes without saying, Dr. Pratt is revered among medical professionals, former patients and the people of Rockland County."

(Photo included: L-R: Chairman Alden H. Wolfe, Elizabeth Simon, Frances Pratt, Legislator Aney Paul)

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