

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 6, 2014 Contact: DOH Communications (850) 245-4111

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RECOGNIZES NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

TALLAHASSEE- The Florida Department of Health recognizes May 6-12, 2014 as National Nurses Week. Each year, National Nurses Week focuses attention on the diverse ways America's 3.1 million registered nurses work to save lives and to improve the health of millions of individuals. The American Nurses Association (ANA) has selected "Nurses Leading the Way..." as the theme for 2014.

"Florida's nurses play a critical role in protecting, promoting and improving the health of all Floridians," said the Department's Acting Chief of Staff, Mary Beth Vickers R.N., M.S.N. "We are proud to recognize Florida's nurses as champions of public health in our state."

During National Nurses Week, nurses are being honored as leaders who improve the quality of health care. Nurses practice in diverse roles, such as clinicians, administrators, researchers, educators and policymakers. Florida's nurses work diligently to combat our state's number one health threat: weight. Nurses lead the way in communities across Florida, promoting healthy weight and lifestyles for children, adults and families.

As the Department recognizes 125 years of Florida Public Health during 2014, it is important to highlight the role of nurses in continuing to improve public health for our residents and visitors.

To learn more about the American Nursing Association and National Nurses Week, please visit <u>www.nursingworld.org</u>.

The Florida Department of Health works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at <u>@HealthyFla</u> and on <u>Facebook</u>. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit <u>www.FloridaHealth.gov</u>.

###