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NEWS RELEASE

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BENEFITING FROM MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AT SALVE

The Newport College - Salve Regina has the only master's degree program in health services administration (HSA) in Southeastern New England. It began in 1979 in response to changes taking place in the health care profession. Over the past few years, health services have been re-defined by inflation, the job market, consumers, corporations, communities, government -- even computers. One result: the issues facing health care providers grow in number and complexity. The need for practitioners, whether doctor, nurse or administrator, who can understand and interpret these issues for their organizations is greater than ever.

Lawyer Thomas Gidley who teaches the HSA course, Health Care Law and Regulations, believes, "An available program like this can have an enormous impact for good in the health care profession." He adds, "There's a lot of information of use to individuals and to their institutions. Every health care professional ought to consider taking it."

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Gidley is a specialist in legal matters relating to the health care field with the Providence firm Hinckley, Allen, Salisbury & Parsons. His involvement illustrates an important feature of the HSA degree offering. Practitioners are an integral part of the program; some serve as advisors to educators, others are full-fledged teachers.

Gidley's course is designed to acquaint students with serious legal problems that can arise in every aspect of health services administration, particularly in hospitals. Sharon Clingham, director of utilization review at St. Joseph's Hospital in Providence and a student of Gidley's, notes, "Information from that course can be used on the job every day in hospitals."

Clingham is one of a growing number of health care professionals interested in job enrichment -- and advancement. She graduated in 1964 from Salve Regina with a B.S. in nursing and returned in 1979 to pursue her master's degree in HSA. She indicates, "I wanted to associate my education with the health field but not strictly nursing." Clingham has found she can easily apply her new knowledge on the job at St. Joseph's. Fellow students, she says, are directors of nursing and come from many different health care settings including nursing homes, home care environments and state health agencies. "Nurses who feel they want to be in administration would benefit from this type of program," she added.

HSA courses are offered in the evening, some on campus in Newport and others at different locations around the state. Twelve courses are required to complete the program. These include four foundation courses in management subjects such as interpersonal skills and human

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resources; six core courses including corporate health planning and health care law; and two electives that include subjects such as computer applications and labor relations. Courses offered this semester are Financial Aspects of Health Services Administration (on campus) and Health Care Law (in Providence). Classes begin February 9. Registration is open until February 4.

For more information please contact Dr. William Burrell, dean of the Graduate School, at (401) 847-6650, ext. 261.

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