



Front row, left to right: Kendra Thayer, vice president of clinical services and chief nursing officer, Potomac Valley Hospital; Christy Metts, nursing manager, Potomac Valley Hospital; Mary Keister, Potomac State College, Diana Niland, advanced practice professional, RC-NE; Crystal Martin, Dominic Amtower, Alli Knaggs, Matthew Hottle, nursing faculty, student learning and development, Potomac Valley Hospital; April Shapiro, Potomac State College; Anna Kephart, Potomac State College, and Mark Boucot, president and CEO of Potomac Valley Hospital.

Potomac Valley Hospital welcomes new Aspiring Nurse program cohort

October 22, 2025

KEYSER, W.Va. – WVU Medicine Potomac Valley Hospital, in collaboration with Potomac State College, recently held an induction ceremony for students entering the WVU Medicine Aspiring Nurse Program at the college's Keyser campus.

The Aspiring Nurse Program, established by the WVU Medicine Center for Nursing Excellence in 2023, is designed to help nursing students cover day-to-day living expenses while pursuing their degrees. Participants receive up to \$25,000 in direct financial assistance over four semesters, in exchange for a three-year work commitment at a WVU Health System facility following graduation.

“This program represents an investment not only in our students but in the future of healthcare in our community,” said Kendra Thayer, Vice President of Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Officer at Potomac Valley Hospital. “By supporting aspiring nurses right here in Mineral County, we’re helping to grow a strong, skilled, and compassionate workforce that will serve our patients close to home.”

In addition to financial support, students in the program receive mentorship and academic guidance to help them succeed throughout their nursing education.

“This program not only eases the financial burden for students but also helps ensure that our local healthcare system continues to have the skilled nurses it needs to provide high-quality care,” added Thayer.

Current WVU Medicine employees may also apply. The program supports up to two years of study in pre-licensure RN programs. RN-to-BSN, LPN, and graduate-level nursing programs are not eligible.