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FASHION ICON DONNA KARAN TO ADDRESS GRADUATES OF PHILLIPS BETH ISRAEL SCHOOL OF NURSING ON JUNE 2

Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing will graduate the largest class in its history when renowned fashion designer Donna Karan delivers the commencement address on June 2nd. A total of 115 seniors will be awarded an associate in applied science degree in nursing during ceremonies in the Tribeca Performing Arts Center of the Borough of Manhattan Community College at 199 Chambers Street.

Ms. Karan, chief designer of the international company that bears her name, has transformed the venture she launched with her late husband Stephan Weiss in 1984 into a vast fashion merchandizing empire. She has won accolades not only for her creations and success on runways, but also for her charitable efforts.

Through her Urban Zen Foundation, she has teamed up with Woodson Merrell, MD, Chairman of the Department of Integrative Medicine and with the Department of Medical Oncology at Beth Israel Medical Center, Phillips Beth Israel's parent institution, to create a unique pilot program that has transformed that inpatient cancer unit into an optimal healing environment for cancer patients and their families. Physicians and nurses work side-by-side with practitioners of healing techniques from Eastern cultures. The initiative also addresses Ms. Karan's concern for the stress caregivers experience by providing healing and relaxation programs for nursing and other staff.

To support the program at Beth Israel, as well as at other hospitals around the country, Ms. Karan has launched the Urban Zen Integrative Therapy Training Program to train interested nurses, doctors, allied health professionals and yoga instructors in a range of healing modalities including: meditation and yoga therapy; aromatherapy; Reiki; nutrition and contemplative end of life care. This 500 hour program, through which successful participants will receive credit from the Yoga Alliance, will create a cadre of specially trained individuals who can bring Eastern healing techniques into clinical settings, helping to advance the cause of treating patients, families and caregivers more holistically.

"We are honored to have Ms. Karan address our graduates," said Dean Janet Mackin, RN, EdD. "She is a strong advocate for the well-being of patients through a convergence of Western medicine and Eastern healing practices. All of us at the school are impressed by the innovative approaches to patient care that she has made possible. Our faculty and our students share her values and her passion!"

Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing was founded in 1904 and is widely recognized for its rigorous program. The curriculum prepares the graduate for entry into practice as an RN. Graduates of the school have gone on to become not only outstanding nurses but many have become leaders in nursing and healthcare. The School, located at 776 Sixth Avenue, in the heart of Manhattan's Fashion and Flower Districts, offers day, evening and weekend programs. More information about the school is available at www.futurenursebi.org.