



UNAC/UHCP

United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals

UNAC/UHCP is affiliated with NUHHCE, AFSCME and the AFL-CIO



955 Overland Court, Suite 150 San Dimas, CA 91773-1718

Telephone: (909) 599-8622

Fax: (909) 599-8655

Website: <http://www.unac-ca.org>

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Jeff Rogers

UNAC/UHCP Communications Specialist

Cell: 909-263-7230 • Office: 909-618-0663

Congresswoman Judy Chu, State Controller John Chiang & San Gabriel Valley Leaders Celebrate Formation of Nurses Union

Montebello, CA - Congresswoman Chu, an early and vocal supporter of the Beverly Hospital Registered Nurses' struggle to improve patient safety and workers' rights, joined California State Controller John Chiang, UNAC/UHCP State Secretary Barbara Blake and a wide array of local elected officials and community leaders Saturday night May 14 to celebrate the formation of the Beverly Nurses' union.

Beverly nurses voted to join the United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals (UNAC/UHCP) on February 23 and 24, 2011. "We saw a need as nurses to speak up for patient safety at our hospital," said Marlene Ontiveros, RN, "including safe nurse-to-patient staffing, newer safety equipment and respect for our contributions as RNs."

The RNs began negotiations last week for their first contract with Beverly Community Hospital. "We need to win a contract that protects patient safety and improves life for all nurses at Beverly," said Ontiveros, an elected member of the nurses' Bargaining Team.

"We local elected officials are watching," Congresswoman Chu told the nurses. "We will do whatever it takes to make sure you get your full and legal rights."

"You've taken on the mission of making sure people get the best health care possible," said California State Controller Chiang as he praised the Beverly and UNAC/UHCP nurses. "Through your actions and your contributions you make a big difference for the people in our community. You will set a standard that other hospitals can follow."

In addition to Chu and Chiang, other local leaders recognized were State Senator Ron Calderon; State Assembly Majority Leader Charles Calderon; Members of the Assembly Mike Eng and Roger Hernandez; El Monte Mayor Andre Quintero; Montebello Unified School District Board Member David Vela; Hacienda-La Puente Unified School District President Jay Chen; Anthony Rendon, Executive Director of Plaza De La Raza; and Miguel Santiago, Trustee of the Los Angeles Community College District Board.

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The United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals is the largest nurses union in Southern California and represents over 20,000 Registered Nurses and other health care professionals. UNAC/UHCP is affiliated with the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO. For more information on UNAC/UHCP, visit www.unacuhcp.org.