

# **The Wisconsin Student Nurse Association Career Awareness Outreach Program “Touched by a Nurse”**

## **Background**

The Wisconsin Student Nurse Association (WSNA) is a pre-professional organization composed of dedicated nursing students in the state of Wisconsin. The goals of WSNA are community based to help educate and promote awareness on topics they believe are beneficial to our communities.

In light of the crisis facing our nation in respect to nursing, the WSNA has developed a statewide program to promote nursing as a profession. The program, called “Touched by a Nurse,” is designed to help recruit and improve the image of the nursing profession. The 36 WSNA chapters located across the state will visit local elementary, middle and high schools and present a short program that builds awareness of:

- ❖ The education required to be a nurse
- ❖ The technical side of the practice
- ❖ The different areas of nursing
- ❖ The different fields that nursing touches
- ❖ The ever-changing aspects of the career
- ❖ The emotional aspects of the career

A registered nurse from the local hospital will accompany the student nurse when a program is presented in a school. Hospitals will be encouraged to mentor and assist the student nurses in their area who are presenting the programs. Hospitals may also host tours for students, offer educational sessions at the hospital, or do many other activities in coordination with their WSNA local chapter.

WSNA is also sponsoring a statewide contest encouraging students at all grade levels to participate in either a coloring or essay contest to describe how their lives have been “Touched by a Nurse.” Winners will be chosen from several categories and awarded a prize. Prizes for young students and scholarships for high school students will be awards. The scholarships and prizes are courtesy of the Wisconsin Hospital Association, the Wisconsin Health Care Association, the Wisconsin Society of Healthcare Human Resources Administration, and the Wisconsin Organization of Nurse Executives.

For more information contact:

Mary Kay Grasmick, Wisconsin Hospital Association  
608-274-1820

Karissa Ellis, Wisconsin Student Nurse Association  
920-499-1883