



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

### **Imperial Valley Healthcare District Announces Largest Historic Group for Valley Nurse Residency Program**

*Largest Cohort in County History Signals Bright Future for Local Healthcare*

(EL CENTRO, CA) – The Imperial Valley Healthcare District (IVHD) is proud to announce the largest nurse residency cohort in Imperial County's history. This milestone initiative brings together newly graduated nurses from both Pioneers Memorial Hospital (PMH) and El Centro Regional Medical Center (ECRMC), marking a transformative moment in the Valley's commitment to supporting the next generation of healthcare professionals.

The residency program provides newly licensed nurses with specialized mentorship, advanced clinical training, and hands-on experience. By investing in these emerging professionals, IVHD is ensuring that Imperial Valley residents will continue to receive exceptional, compassionate care for decades to come.

"This historic achievement reflects the hope, dedication, and future of healthcare in our Valley," said Kimberly Probus, DHA, DNP, Chief Nursing Officer at El Centro Regional Medical Center. "These talented nurse residents are choosing to build their careers right here in the Imperial Valley, and we're honored to provide them with the mentorship and resources they need to become exceptional healthcare providers. Our community's health is in excellent hands."

The program's unprecedented size reflects IVHD's strategic commitment to workforce development and healthcare accessibility as it serves Imperial County's nearly 180,000 residents. Nurse residents participate in structured educational sessions, receive guidance from experienced nursing mentors, and gain valuable clinical experience across various specialties, including emergency medicine, medical-surgical care, maternal health, and surgical services.

"Watching these passionate, skilled nurses begin their professional journey fills me with tremendous optimism for our Valley's healthcare future," said Carol Bojorquez, MSN, RN, Chief Nursing Officer at Pioneers Memorial Hospital. "Our nurse residency program doesn't just train excellent clinicians—it cultivates compassionate caregivers who understand the unique needs of our Imperial Valley community. Every resident in this

cohort is a testament to our commitment to quality care and our investment in homegrown healthcare talent."

The residency program aligns perfectly with IVHD's broader mission to transform the health landscape of Imperial County through the historic integration of PMH and ECRMC. By welcoming and mentoring local nursing talent, IVHD is strengthening its ability to provide comprehensive, accessible healthcare services while building a sustainable workforce for future generations.

The most recent group of nurse residents has just completed their program. They are now working on the floors and fully engaged in caring for their patients, advancing evidence-based practices, patient safety protocols, and collaborative care models.

"This is what healthcare transformation looks like," added Probus. "We're not just merging hospital systems—we're building a legacy of excellence, one nurse at a time."

###

#### **About the Imperial Valley Healthcare District**

The Imperial Valley Healthcare District serves nearly 180,000 residents across Imperial County through the integration of Pioneers Memorial Hospital and El Centro Regional Medical Center, along with associated clinics. IVHD is committed to providing comprehensive, accessible healthcare services while fostering innovation and excellence in patient care.