

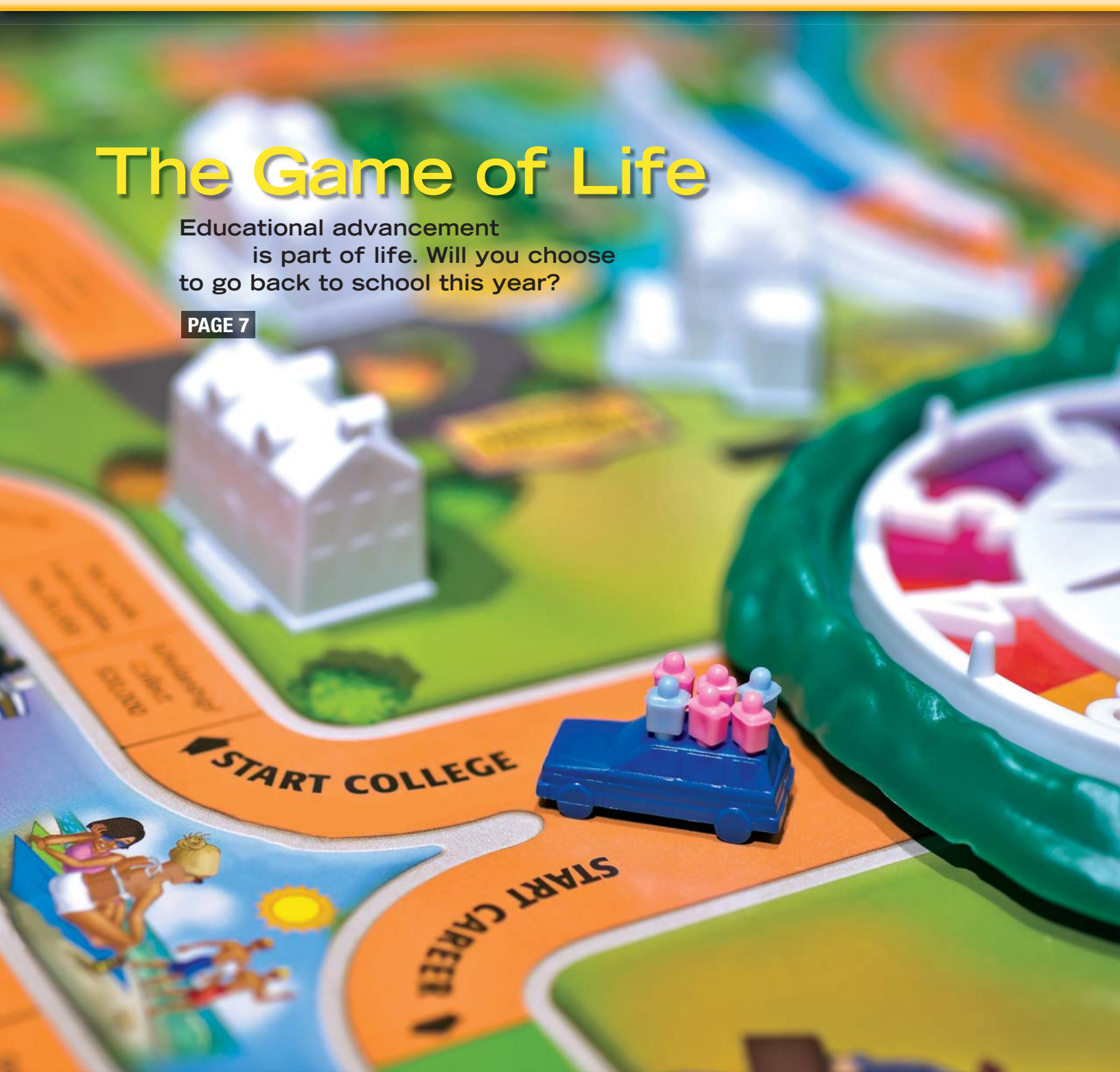
SPRING 2012

Magnet Attractions

The Game of Life

Educational advancement
is part of life. Will you choose
to go back to school this year?

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Partnering for Education

New program will make getting a BSN more convenient

With health care reform on the horizon, we're all preparing for the future. To meet the challenges ahead, our health network supports the recommendations put forth in *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, a report produced by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation at the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

One of the report's recommendations is to increase the proportion of nurses with a bachelor's degree in nursing to 80 percent by 2020. To assist nurses who wish to earn a bachelor's degree, our health network has partnered with Lancaster General College of Nursing & Health Sciences to offer an RN to BSN program on-site at Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest.

Offered exclusively for health network nurses, the RN to BSN program is an accelerated 22-month program. "We wanted to offer our nurses a convenient way to get their bachelor's degree," says nursing liaison Valerie Kocher. Registered nurses who graduated from an associate degree or diploma program are eligible to apply. Cohorts of approximately 20 students will take classes together throughout the program, which is accredited through the Commission on

Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Upon completion of the program, the BSN degree will be awarded through Lancaster General College of Nursing & Health Sciences.

To accommodate a range of schedules, classes will be held one night per week for four hours at 1247 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown. The first cohort will begin classes this spring, and another cohort will start in August.

To help offset the cost of attending the program, nurses can apply for tuition reimbursement up to \$4,000 per year for full-time colleagues. Fifty scholarships are also available up to \$6,000. To apply for a scholarship, applicants need to be employed at the health network for a minimum of two years; submit a letter of recommendation from their manager; and receive a performance evaluation of 3 or better. Applicants also must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 while in the program.

Students also may see some friendly faces while earning their degree. "Lecturers are from Lancaster General, but some master's-level nurses from our health network may teach too," Kocher says.



Need tuition reimbursement?

For more information about tuition reimbursement, contact human resources at **610-402-3260**.



Want a scholarship?

For more information about scholarships, contact Valerie Kocher at **610-402-1724**.

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

TL2: What is it?

If we want to align with the recommendations put forth by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing at the Institute of Medicine (IOM), then we need to make it more convenient for our nurses to obtain their bachelor of science degree in nursing. Our chief nursing officer, nursing administrators and others advocated for resources to create a partnership with the Lancaster General College of Nursing & Health Sciences. This exemplifies the Magnet™ model component Transformational Leadership.