



News Release

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American Board of Nursing Specialties Elects New Representative to the Accreditation Council of ABNS

AURORA, Ohio, April 25, 2007 | The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) is pleased to announce that Diane Thompkins, RN, MSN, was elected to the Accreditation Council of ABNS at the spring 2007 ABNS Assembly Meeting, held March 2-3, 2007, in Costa Mesa, California. Thompkins will assume this position beginning July 1, 2007, and will serve a two year term of office.

Ms. Thompkins is currently employed as the Assistant Director, Certification Services for the American Nurses Credentialing Center in Silver Spring, Maryland, where she is responsible for the ANCC certification and certification renewal program. Thompkins is also a member of the American Nurses Association, the Maryland Nurses Association, the National Black Nurses Association, the Black Nurses Association of Greater Washington DC Area, and Sigma Theta Tau.

“Since 2004, Diane has been Assistant Director, Certification Services at the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). During her tenure at ANCC, the organization’s 2006 ABNS application for reaccreditation of its Nurse Practitioner certification exams was approved, giving her an understanding of the challenges programs face during this important process,” noted Bonnie Niebuhr, CEO of ABNS.

“I will have completed three years as ANCC Assistant Director of Certification where, along with the Director, I am actively involved in the policy aspects of certification as well direct the overall initial and certification renewal program. I was actively involved in the process to prepare and submit ANCC’s 2006 ABNS application for reaccreditation of its Nurse Practitioner certification exams. My involvement in this process was a positive experience and a learning opportunity and is one of the reasons I look forward to serving on the ABNS Accreditation

Council. In my previous role as Nurse Educator, prior to joining ANCC, I promoted the benefits of certification to nursing staff and helped to develop a review course for Medical-Surgical Nursing including test taking techniques. I also assisted nursing staff to complete the application process for certification exams. I also served as a reviewer of continuing education applications for the Public Health Service and the Maryland Nurses Association to determine if applicant could award ANCC contact hours for education programs,” said Thompkins upon announcement of her appointment to the Accreditation Council.

“My contribution to ABNS will be to actively use my knowledge, skills, and abilities related to standards and nursing to review and provide feedback about accreditation applications. My previous experience in reviewing continuing education and recent experience in completing an ABNS application for accreditation provide ‘real’ time expertise.” Thompkins added.

“Diane Thompkins has an extraordinary background in certification and accreditation and brings a unique point of view to this position. As one of the newest members of the Accreditation Council, she will be a strong advocate to further the position of ABNS to achieve its vision - *Specialty nursing certification is THE standard by which the public recognized quality nursing care,*” noted Niebuhr.

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Editors Note:

The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) is a membership organization that maintains a national peer review program for nursing specialty certification. The mission of ABNS is to promote the value of specialty nursing certification to all stakeholders. Currently, twenty-eight ABNS Regular Member and one Associate Member Organizations represent nearly half a million specialty certified registered nurses. Its thirteen Affiliate Members include providers of key certification-related testing products and services. One Public Member represents the consumer’s perspectives on issues about specialty nursing certification. For further information about ABNS, visit www.nursingcertification.org or email Bonnie Niebuhr, MS, RN, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, at ABNSCEO@aol.com.

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