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ABNS Announces Newly-Named Accreditation Board

AURORA, OH (August 20, 2009) - The American Board for Nursing Specialties (ABNS) today announced the new name and structure for its accrediting body. The Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC), formerly known as the ABNS Accreditation Council, is now a separately incorporated Board with a Board of Directors.

"We are excited to officially launch the new name for the ABSNC," Marilyn Ricci, RN, MS, CNS, CNRN, ABSNC President, said. "As the only accrediting body specifically for specialty nursing certification programs, ABSNC plays a critical role in the industry."

Since 1991, ABNS has recognized and promoted the value of certification through the activities of its Accreditation Council. Since the accreditation standards require that an organization's certification and membership functions be autonomous, ABNS began the work to create a separate and autonomous accreditation board. The ABSNC has authority over all accreditation decisions and functions, and a newly elected Board of Directors assumed office on July 1, 2009 to guide the ABSNC's mission to seek and recognize high quality specialty nursing and associated certification programs through accreditation.

"An accrediting body also faces different issues than a membership-based organization," Ricci said. "Having two organizations with different, yet complementary missions and purposes works best for the audiences ABNS serves."

ABSNC accredits specialty nursing certification programs based on compliance with its standards, available online at www.nursingcertification.org. Currently, 16 specialty nursing certifying organizations have 54 accredited certification programs. To learn more about the accreditation process, visit www.nursingcertification.org and click "Accreditation."

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For further information about ABNS and ABSNC, visit www.nursingcertification.org or email Bonnie Niebuhr, MS, RN, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, at ABNSCEO@aol.com.

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