

Americare Critical Care Transport Receives 2016 ABNS Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy

Honorable mention awarded to University of North Carolina Hospitals for its certification awareness efforts

AURORA, Ohio, (May 2, 2016) – The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) Awards and Recognition Committee announced during the organization’s March 3rd Spring Assembly Meeting in Las Vegas it has selected Americare Critical Care Transport in Dumont, NJ as the recipient of the 2016 Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy.

“It is clear that the leadership team within Americare Critical Care Transport truly values the essential role of nursing specialty certification, as Americare mandates all of its nurses hold a minimum of one current board certification in critical care to maintain employment,” Cyndee Hnatiuk, EdD, RN, CAE, FAAN, Chair of the ABNS Awards and Recognition Committee, said. “To ensure all Americare nurses hold at least one level of specialty certification displays a true reverence for the important role of nursing certification within patient care today.”

Currently, Americare employs 12 registered nurses (RNs) who have obtained at least one Board Certification in Critical Care, with five other nurses who have earned two board certifications in the specialty of Critical Care and an additional nurse having recently achieved three specialty board certifications, a first for the organization. Americare’s administrative staff, including its managers and directors, also hold Critical Care certification—including certification in other nursing specialties—as certification is greatly weighted during Americare’s promotional and hiring activities. Additionally, several of the staff nurses are advanced practice nurses including one nurse practitioner, two DNP nurse practitioners and one nurse who has a medical degree and is currently in residency.

“While Critical Care Board Certification is a mandatory requirement as a prerequisite to have any patient contact, this is not an industry standard and it is not a state or federal requirement but it represents our commitment to clinical excellence,” said Fabrizio Bivona, RN CEN, CTRN, MICP, Americare CEO.

Americare has implemented a variety of strategies to help its staff obtain and maintain certification through providing financial reimbursement for all certification, recertification, and continuing education fees, as well as no-cost review materials and programs. Employees are provided paid leave for exams resulting in a passing grade and for time needed to complete continuing education requirements.

Certification accomplishments are featured at Americare’s biannual dinner, recognizing important employee contributions. Certificants are also rewarded through small bonuses and letters of recognition, and their achievement is further recognized through commemorative plaques, staff certification boards and on ID badges, scrubs and other professional attire. Americare also highlights its uniquely trained nursing staff at organizational trainings and important community events, such as job fairs and relevant nursing events.

The ABNS Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy has been developed as a means to publicly recognize organizations that advocate for or promote specialty nursing certification. Organizations providing patient/client care that employ certified nurses are eligible to apply for this award. Organizations include but are not limited to hospitals, health systems, hospices, visiting nurses associations, ambulatory care clinics, occupational health and school settings, and free standing facilities. A unit or division of a larger organization is eligible to apply.

For more information on the requirements of the award, visit www.nursingcertification.org.

Editor's Note:

The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) is a membership organization whose mission is to promote the value of specialty nursing certification to all stakeholders. Currently 32 ABNS Regular Member organizations represent nearly 750,000 specialty certified registered nurses. Its 14 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 abns@nursingcertification.org.