

## **Credentialing Community Identifies Research Priorities to Define the Value of Certification**

***Convening of health care industry experts facilitated by ABNS builds consensus on future research efforts.***

**AURORA, Ohio, (April 27, 2016)**—The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) convened more than 100 experts from the health care, academia and professional certification industries March 3 – 5 in Las Vegas for a National Convening - The Value of Certification: Building the Business Case for Certification.

Through a work group-based discussion facilitated by Stratford Managers, the attendees (representing multi-disciplinary partners from nursing, radiology, pharmacy, occupational therapy, dietetics and physicians) built consensus on four research priorities relevant to the value of specialty certification for patients, health care providers, employers, educators, and multidisciplinary health care teams. The research priorities identified are:

- Certification improves the recruitment and retention of qualified nurses, enhances their employability and potential job prospects.
- Certification is recognized validation of knowledge in the specialty.
- Certification improves organizational culture of health care delivery, job satisfaction, empowerment and confidence.
- Certification advances safety, improves processes of care, and improves quality of care.

“Research to confirm the value of certification is a priority for the educators, employers and credentialing organizations who attended this groundbreaking convening,” Leslie Anne Patry, RN, BScN, MScN, current ABNS President, said. “This convening enabled us to advance important conversations to identify key factors influencing the value of certification to a variety of stakeholders, most importantly our patients.”

This national convening featured a presentation on assessing the value of certification in the changing health care system from Dr. Jack Needleman, Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. The purpose of the convening built on existing research on the value of certification, particularly the Institute for Medicine (IOM) Workshop on Credentialing Research.

The Value Convening Planning Group will evaluate the results of the meeting and distribute the convening summary. The meeting participants will determine how to implement a series of specific projects to respond to the identified research priorities.

“The spirit of collaboration is what is driving this project and what will ultimately lead to success in providing data-driven answers that speak to building the business case for certification,” Patry noted. “It is through these efforts that certification organizations can continue to expand the conversation and promote action.”

Information on the Value Convening, including slide presentations, meeting objectives, partner organizations and a sponsor listing can be found at <http://www.nursingcertification.org/spring-2016-value-convening-meeting/>.

***Editor’s Note:***

The American Board of Nursing Specialties, Inc. (ABNS) is a membership organization whose mission is to promote the value of specialty nursing certification to all stakeholders. Currently, 32 ABNS Regular Member represent nearly three quarters of a million 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](http://www.nursingcertification.org).

The Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification, Inc. (ABSNC) accredits 51 certification programs from 20 specialty nursing certification organizations. For more information about ABSNC and its accreditation standards, please visit [www.nursingcertification.org](http://www.nursingcertification.org) and click on Accreditation.

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