



News Release

For more information contact:
Bonnie Niebuhr, MS, RN, CAE
Chief Executive Officer, ABNS
330 995 9172

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

AURORA, Ohio, April 3, 2006 | The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) is pleased to announce that Jeanne Marie Martinez, RN, MPH, CHPN, was elected as Chair of the Accreditation Council of ABNS at the biannual Assembly meeting of ABNS, held March 4, 2006, in Phoenix, Arizona. Martinez will assume this position beginning July 1, 2006, and will serve a two year term of office.

Ms. Martinez is currently employed as the Associate Director for Consulting Services for the EPEC Project at Northwestern University where she develops work plans and technical assistance for education programs and conferences, and other projects related to improving end-of-life care. Prior to that, Martinez was an independent consultant who provided consultation for regional and national end-of-life care projects, including the inaugural project for The Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC).

“Not only has Jeanne Martinez served two years on the ABNS Accreditation Council, she has served on the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nursing (NBCHPN) for the past five years. During this time, she has held the leadership positions of Exam Development Committee Chair, Vice-President, and President. In addition, she was co-investigator for a grant to develop certification for nursing assistants in hospice and palliative care,” noted Bonnie Niebuhr, CEO of ABNS. “All of this experience is a great background for the position of Chair of the Accreditation Council of ABNS.”

“During my two terms, the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nursing has added two additional certifications for nursing assistants and advance practice nurses, and will be adding a fourth for LPNs. This has given me the experience of developing certifications from inception, including participation in a total of three distinct role delineation

– more –

studies. In addition, I have taught several item writers workshops with a psychometrician. Our board also developed a process for the general RN candidate to have the option of re-certification by portfolio, every other certification period. During my term of office on the NBCHPN board, the CHPN certification program became accredited by ABNS. It is all of these experiences that have deepened my understanding of the process for developing a valid and reliable certification program. This is the background I bring to the work and goals of ABNS and the Accreditation Council.” Martinez commented.

“Jeanne Martinez has a remarkable background in nursing and certification and brings a vast background of roles to this position. Having already served as a member of the Accreditation Council for three years, she will be a vibrant leader and will work hard to further the position ABNS to achieve its vision - *specialty nursing certification is THE standard by which the public recognized quality nursing care,*” noted Niebuhr.

###

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-seven ABNS Regular Member and one Associate Member Organizations represent nearly half a million specialty certified registered nurses. Its twelve 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.

610 Thornhill Lane | Aurora, Ohio 44202

Phone: 330-995-9172 Fax: 330-995-9743 | E-mail: ABNSCEO@aol.com | www.nursingcertification.org

###