



## News Release

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

AURORA, Ohio, April 1, 2006 | The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) is pleased to announce that Jacqueline Stewart, BSN, MSN, was elected to the Accreditation Council of ABNS at the biannual Assembly meeting of ABNS, held March 4, 2006, in Phoenix, Arizona. Niven will assume this position beginning July 1, 2006, and will serve a three year term of office.

Ms. Stewart is a Clinical Nurse Specialist at the Wyoming Valley Health Care System in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. Prior to that Stewart was Education Specialist and Nurse Manager of the Emergency Department at the Community Medical Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Stewart is a Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN) and a Certified Critical Care Nurse (CCRN) and a member of the Emergency Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau, and Phi Kappa Phi.

“Jacqueline’s experience with certification began in 1998 as an Item Writer for the CEN exam. Since then she has been a member of the eight-person Exam Construction and Review Committee and in 2002 was elected to the BCEN Board of Directors. In January 2006, she will begin a two-year term as Chairperson of that Board. Seventeen years ago, within a two-week period, Jacqueline tested and became certified in both Emergency and Critical Care nursing. Neither exam was required by her employer, nor was either one funded by them. She simply did it because of her passionate belief in the value of certification,” noted Bonnie Niebuhr, CEO of ABNS.

“In order for ABNS to promote the value of specialty certification and be THE standard by which the public recognizes quality nursing care, the criteria and decisions of the Accreditation Council must themselves meet the highest of standards in both appearance and practice. As a member of this council, I will be accurate, complete, objective and timely in the review of assigned applications. Equally important, I will support the Council’s efforts to assist

organizations to view the process as steps to an achievable and worthwhile goal,” commented Stewart upon announcement of her appointment to the Accreditation Council.

“Jacqueline Stewart has proven her commitment to certification both personally and professionally. By staying involved in many areas of the certification process, Stewart brings a great background to ABNS. As one of the newest members of the Accreditation Council, she will be a strong advocate 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.

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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-seven ABNS Regular Members 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](http://www.nursingcertification.org) or email Bonnie Niebuhr, MS, RN, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, at [ABNSCEO@aol.com](mailto:ABNSCEO@aol.com).

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