

ABNS Announces Advocacy Award Honorable Mentions

AURORA, Ohio, April 12, 2009 | The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) Awards and Recognition Committee announced today that it has selected three institutions to receive honorable mentions for the 2010 ABNS Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy. ABNS recognized the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, MA, the Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage, AK, and the CHRISTUS Hospital-St. Elizabeth & St. Mary in Beaumont, TX as strong advocates of specialty nursing certification.

“We received a record number of applications for the Advocacy Award this year, and our decision was made even more difficult by the quality of the applicants,” Judy Lentz, Chair of the ABNS Awards Committee, said. “We picked these institutions to receive honorable mentions because they have demonstrated their strong support of specialty nursing certification and dedication to patient safety.”

Among the criteria necessary to win ABNS’ Advocacy Award, the organization must document the total number of direct patient care RNs and nursing managers and the number and percentage who are certified in specialty nursing. The honorable mention winners report the following percentages:

- Lahey Clinic – more than 17 percent of direct patient care RNs and 46 percent of nursing managers are certified.
- Providence Alaska Medical Center – more than 25 percent of direct patient care RNs and more than 42 percent of nursing managers are certified.
- CHRISTUS – 26 percent of direct patient care RNs and 57 percent of nursing managers are certified.

Other award criteria include how the organization supports those nurses interested in seeking certification. While each of the institutions supports certification in a variety of ways, the common element is their focus on encouraging the nursing staff to earn certification and continue their education throughout their careers.

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Lahey Clinic's nursing and physician leaders recognize that professional specialty certification benefits patients and the healthcare system, and signifies a mark of excellence in practice. For those nurses who have successfully achieved their initial certification, Lahey Clinic's policy is to reimburse the cost of the initial examination fee and subsequent recertification fees.

For the Providence Alaska Medical Center, geography is one of the biggest barriers for RNs interested in obtaining a specialty certification due to travel expenses from Alaska to the lower 48 states. PAMC provides a tuition reimbursement benefit to offset costs of travel fees.

CHRISTUS Hospital requires certification for many open positions, including listing credentials for various positions in job announcements. Nurses also receive a pay differential of \$.50 per hour. The hospital also celebrates Certified Nurses Day and holds a quarterly tea to celebrate certified or recertified nurses.

Through efforts such as those demonstrated at the Lahey Clinic, Providence Alaska Medical Center and the CHRISTUS Hospital, the ABNS Vision - Specialty nursing care is **THE** standard by which the public recognizes quality nursing care - will be achieved. For more information on the requirements of the award, visit www.nursingcertification.org.

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Editors 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, 33 ABNS Regular Member represent nearly half a million specialty certified registered nurses. Its 10 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 bniebuhr@nursingcertification.org.

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