



For Immediate Release

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ABNS Announces New Leaders

AURORA, OH (August 20, 2009)—The American Board for Nursing Specialties (ABNS) today announced that Mary O’Neale, BS, BA, MN, RN, CNOR will serve as President and Jacqueline Stewart, MSN, CEN, CCRN will serve as President Elect of the Board of Directors for 2009 – 2011.

“I am excited to work with such a talented and dedicated group of volunteer leaders and nurses to guide ABNS through the next year,” O’Neale said. “This is a unique time not only for the organization but also for the industry as a whole, and the Board is dedicated to continuing its support of specialty nursing certifying organizations.”

O’Neale currently serves as the Director of Credentialing and Education at the Competency & Credentialing Institute (CCI). In this role she is responsible for managing all processes related to certification and recertification for the CNOR and CRNFA examinations, as well as the needs of a certificant population of more than 30,000 perioperative nurses. O’Neale also serves as managing editor for CCI publications, including perioperative nursing textbooks. She has a Master’s degree in nursing from the University of Phoenix, Colorado campus.

Supporting O’Neale in the role of President-Elect is Stewart, who has been the Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN) representative to ABNS for the past five years.

“As President-Elect, I will continue to support ABNS’ strong research initiative and use the knowledge gained to increase our visibility among nursing certification organizations, healthcare administrators, physicians and the consumer,” she said.

Stewart earned the Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN) and Certified Critical Care RN (CCRN) in 1988. She has been an active member of the BCEN leadership since 2003, and served as the Board Chair in 2007 – 2008. Stewart currently works as an Assistant Professor at Wilkes University where she focuses on clinical and classroom instruction for undergraduate and second degree nursing students.

O’Neale and Stewart began their two year terms on July 1, 2009 and will serve as President and President-Elect respectively through June 30, 2011.

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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, 31 ABNS Regular Member represent nearly half a million specialty certified registered nurses. Its 11 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.

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