

ABNS Announces New Leaders for 2011 – 2012

AURORA, OH (March 29, 2011)—The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) announced today that it has elected new leadership for 2011 – 2012. Maria Shirey, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE, FAAN, representing the AACN Certification Corporation, will serve as President-Elect and Christopher Hunt, MBA, representing the Infusion Nurses Certification Corporation (INCC), will serve as Member at Large.

“ABNS members represent the interests of more than 500,000 certified nurses, and our leadership has complex and wide-ranging topics to address,” Jacqueline Stewart, RN, MSN, CEN, CCRN, FAEN, ABNS President-Elect, said. “We are lucky to add Maria and Chris to our Board—two leaders who have experience, dedication and commitment.”

Shirey has extensive governance and volunteer experience, and currently serves as the Chair of the AACN Certification Corporation Board of Directors, a position she will hold through June 30, 2011. In addition to ABNS, she is a member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE), American Nurses Association (ANA), American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and the Midwest Nursing Research Society.

She is an Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Southern Indiana College of Nursing and Health Professions as well as a healthcare consultant in the areas of leadership development and building professional practice environments of nursing excellence. She earned her PhD from Indiana University in 2009.

“As a strategic entity, ABNS must position itself to remain a vital and sustainable organization,” Shirey said. “I hope to build on past ABNS accomplishments and work in partnership with the ABNS chief executive officer, board, member organizations and other stakeholders to help take this organization to new levels.”

Joining Shirey on the 2011 – 2012 ABNS Board of Directors is Hunt, who serves as the Executive Vice President of the Infusion Nurses Society/Infusion Nurses Certification Corporation.

“I see ABNS facing many of the same challenges that its member organizations face – growing an organization by finding ways to balance clinical, financial and marketing aspects,” Hunt, who earned his MBA from Bentley College in Waltham, MA, said. “I believe I can bring a skill set and commitment to the ABNS Board that will help it, and ultimately its members, continue to succeed.”

Hunt will focus on using his background and experience in marketing and management to assist ABNS in promoting the importance of certification to a wider audience.

ABNS also elected two new members, Erin Butler and Richard Meadows, to the Nominations and Elections Committee. This committee plays an essential role in recruiting candidates for future leadership positions on the Board of Directors.

Butler is the Executive Director for the American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses (ABCGN). In this position, she works with Board and committees on a daily basis which provides insight into the skills, experiences and attitudes needed for volunteer leaders. Meadows currently serves as the Executive Director of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCP). He is also a certified Adult Nurse Practitioner and spent many years working as a nurse in the U.S. Army and Department of Veterans Affairs.

The newly elected Board and committee members will take office on July 1, 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, 32 ABNS Regular Member represent nearly half a million specialty certified registered nurses. Its 12 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 abns@nursingcertification.org.

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