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ABSNC Announces New Leadership for 2011 – 2012

AURORA, OH (March 21, 2011)—The Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC), formerly the ABNS Accreditation Council, announced the results of the 2011 election for the Board of Directors. Annette Parry Bush, RN, BSN, MBA, OCN®, Karen Plaus, PhD, CRNA, FAAN, and Diane Thompkins, MS, RN will serve as members of the Board of Directors through 2014.

“The ABSNC Board has an important mission to evaluate programs against the ABSNC standards, which are recognized throughout the industry as the mark of excellence,” Marilyn Ricci, RN, MS, CNS, CNRN, ABSNC President, said. “We are pleased to add three new members who understand this important role and will contribute their knowledge and experience to furthering our mission.”

Bush currently serves as the Certification Programs Manager at the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC), where she is responsible for management of all ONCC certification programs.

“I follow rigorous guidelines to ensure that our certificants achieve a standard beyond licensure and maintain a level of knowledge for the specialty of oncology nursing,” she said. “My experience with preparing the ABSNC accreditation and reaccreditation applications for the ONCC credentials has given me the experience to review accreditation applications and offer suggestions to improve the application and review process.”

Bush is a member of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) and currently holds the OCN® certification, a credential offered by ONCC.

Plaus is the Executive Director for the National Board for the Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA), a position she has held for the last four years.

“As a Board member of ABSNC, I would promote that the credentialing programs meet and exceed expected standards,” she said. “Further, I would advocate that the criteria and standards undergo continuous review to assure congruity with the nursing and credentialing requirements.”

Plaus is a member of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, American Nurses Association, American Academy of Nurses, the Institute for Credentialing Excellence, Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists and Sigma Theta Tau.

Joining Bush and Plaus, is Thompkins who currently works as the Assistant Director, Certification Services at the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) where she provides oversight of 25 nursing certifications.

“As an advocate for certification, I encourage and support organizations in their goals to obtain national accreditation,” she said. “ABSNC standards ensure that nursing experts are accrediting nursing certifications.”

In addition to ABNS, Thompkins is a member of the American Nurses Association, Maryland State Nurses Association, National Black Nurses Association and the Black Nurses Association of Greater Washington DC area, in which she has held multiple leadership positions.

The new directors will take office on July 1, 2011.

The Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) is the only accrediting body specifically for specialty nursing certification programs. Currently ABSNC accredits 54 certification programs from 16 specialty nursing certification organizations. For more information about ABSNC and its accreditation standards, please visit www.nursingcertification.org and click on Accreditation.

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