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## **ABSNC Elects New Officers for 2011 – 2013**

***“ABSNC’s new officers for the next year have the knowledge and passion to guide our organization to the next level of excellence,” Marilyn Ricci, RN, MS, CNS, CNRN, ABSNC President.***

**AURORA, OH (June 29, 2011)**—The Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC), formerly the ABNS Accreditation Council, announced it has elected new officers for 2011 – 2013. Dottie Roberts, MSN, MACI, RN, CMSRN, OCNS-C will serve as President, Shelly Cannon, BSN, RN, CPAN will serve as Vice President and Jane Tustin, MSN, RN, NCSN, FNASN will serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

“The ABSNC Board works together to meet our mission and accredit high quality certification programs in specialty nursing. Achieving our mission would be impossible without the guidance of the dedicated officers on the Board of Directors,” Marilyn Ricci, RN, MS, CNS, CNRN, ABSNC President, said. “ABSNC’s new officers for next year have the knowledge and passion to guide our organization to the next level of excellence.”

Roberts is currently the Executive Director of the Orthopaedic Nurses Certification Board (ONCB), a position she has held since 2005. She also serves as a Nursing Instructor at South University in Columbia, SC and Editor of *MEDSURG Nursing*, the official journal of the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses. She has volunteered with the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) in a variety of roles including Board Member at Large, Marketing Committee Chair, Program Committee Chair, Nominating Committee Chair. She served as ABNS President from 2007 – 2009.

“My goal as ABSNC President is to be an enthusiastic ambassador for accreditation among certifying bodies by communicating the unmatched value of ABSNC accreditation,” Roberts, who has been a certified nurse since 1994, said. “My involvement in specialty nursing certification now spans more than a decade, and I continue to find it to be a rewarding opportunity to invest in the profession and contribute to quality patient care.”

Cannon, also a certified nurse since 1994, is a PACU Staff Nurse at Exempla Lutheran Medical Center where she also serves as a Clinical Scholar. As a scholar, she is an instructor to medical/surgical students from the University of Colorado, Denver in the clinical setting. For eight years, she served on

the Board of Directors for the American Board for PeriAnesthesia Nursing Certification (ABPANC), including terms as Secretary Treasurer and President.

“I truly believe that specialty certification translates into higher quality patient care and safer practice,” Cannon said. “I believe that my years of service on the ABPANC Board of Directors gave me a solid understanding of the challenges facing certifying organizations. This experience will help me to encourage consensus in the industry to create a unified voice communicating the value of specialty certification.”

Joining Roberts and Cannon as Secretary-Treasurer is Tustin, who first earned specialty nursing certification in 1990. She was a Board member of the National Board for Certification of School Nurses, Inc. from 2000 – 2009, and served as President from 2006 – 2009. She was also the President of the National Association of School Nurses, Inc. from 1999 – 2000. She currently works as a School Health Consultant helping school systems audit their programs to determine compliance with Texas Health Codes and conducting staff evaluations.

“I strongly support the philosophy and intent of the ABSNC and believe I have the skills to help move the mission and vision forward,” Tustin said. “As an officer, it is my responsibility to articulate our mission and vision statements and ensure that we are effectively communicating them to our stakeholders. I look forward to a time when specialty certification is required in the workplace and recognized, and demanded, by the public.”

The new officers will officially assume their positions 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 53 certification programs from 17 specialty nursing certification organizations. For more information about ABSNC and its accreditation standards, please visit [www.nursingcertification.org](http://www.nursingcertification.org) and click on Accreditation.

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