



*Formerly the ABNS Accreditation Council*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ABSNC Announces New Leadership**

**AURORA, OH (August 20, 2009)**—The Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC), formerly the ABNS Accreditation Council, announced the results of the 2009 – 2010 election for the newly created Board of Directors. The results are: Marilyn Ricci, RN, MS, CNS, CNRN (President), Dottie Roberts, MSN, MACI, RN, CMSRN, OCNS-C® (Vice President), Diane Thompkins, RN, MS (Secretary Treasurer), and Board members Jane Tustin, MSN, RN, NCSN, FNASN and Shelly Cannon, BSN, RN, CPAN.

The following members of the former ABNS Accreditation Council will continue to serve on the ABSNC Board: Nancy Eisemon, RN, MPH, CGRN, APN/CNS, Jeanne Martinez, RN, MPH, CHPN, Gerald Rosen, Ed.D, Volunteer Lead Psychometrician, and Miki Felsenburg, JD, MBA, Public Member.

“The ABSNC has a distinct and important role as the only accreditation body specifically for specialty nursing certification programs. It is a role that we take very seriously,” Ricci, who recently completed her term as the Vice-Chairperson of the ABNS Accreditation Council, said. “As President, I hope to work with my fellow directors to continue the important work this organization was created to accomplish.”

Ricci has been an active member of numerous organizations in the nursing field. She served as President of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) and has participated in the certification activities for the American Board of Neuroscience Nurses (ABNN) and the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN). Her other accomplishments include serving as an AANN Task Force member, ABNN Certification Board founding member, and an ABNN Board member, officer, and representative to the ABNS.

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Supporting Ricci as Vice President is Roberts who has been involved in certification continuously since 1998. She served as a volunteer member of the Orthopaedic Nursing Certification Board (ONCB) through 2003 and then as the ONCB's Executive Director, a position she has held since 2004. In 2002, she joined the ABNS Board as Member at Large and subsequently became ABNS President-Elect and President.

"I have been involved in strategic and program planning efforts that have helped me understand the many issues unique to the nursing certification community in my roles with ONCB and the ABNS," Roberts said. "I look forward to working with the other members of the Board to continue building on the success of previous volunteers."

Joining Ricci and Roberts on the ABSNC Board of Directors are Thompkins, Tustin and Cannon, each with extensive experience that will complement the current composition of the ABSNC's governing body and help them to achieve their short and long-term goals.

For the past three years, Thompkins has served as the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Assistant Director of Certification, where she guided the policy aspects of certification and directed the certification and recertification programs. In her previous role as nurse educator, she promoted the benefits of certification to staff and helped to develop a review course for Medical-Surgical Nurses.

Tustin served as President of the National Board for Certification of School Nurses (NBCSN) from 2005 – 2009. She also represented the organization at the ABNS meetings and participated in the development planning for the ABSNC.

Cannon is currently a practicing nurse with a keen understanding of the accreditation standards and issues related to specialty nursing certification. Cannon served as President of the American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification (ABPANC) as well as other key leadership positions including President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer.

The new directors and officers began their three year terms of office on July 1, 2009 and will serve in these roles through June 30, 2012.

The Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) is the only accrediting body specifically for specialty nursing certification programs. Currently 16 specialty nursing certification organizations have 54 accredited certification programs. 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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