
ABNS

American Board of Nursing Specialties

Promoting Excellence in Nursing Certification

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*The American Board of Nursing Specialties
Presents First-Ever*

Nursing Certification Advocacy Award

On behalf of the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS), President Sharon Kemerer, and Vice-President Shannon Carter presented the first *Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy* to Genesis Medical Center (Davenport, IA) and the Iowa Department of Public Health (Des Moines, IA) in a ceremony held May 5, 2003 at Genesis Medical Center. The presentation, a perfect start to Nurses Week, was made before a crowd of over 100 people, including members of the press. Carole Reid, Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nurse Executive of Genesis Medical Center, and Dr. Mary Mincer Hansen, Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, each were presented with a framed certificate and crystal statuary reflecting this honor.

“This award publicly recognizes individuals and organizations that truly advance the value of nursing certification – a step beyond professional licensure,” noted Carter. “In this day and age of a nursing shortage, of having to do more with less at the bedside, ABNS believes that professional nursing certification promotes quality patient care,” she further stated.

“These recipients are unique in that they represent a partnership between two organizations to address the national issue of the nursing shortage by focusing on retention through supporting excellence in practice,” Kemerer stated in her address to the audience..

Genesis Medical Center initiated the *Retention Through Certification Program*. With a grant from the Iowa Department of Public Health and matching funds from the Medical Center, this new program will strive to enhance retention of nurses, promote professional practice and improve staff satisfaction by supporting professional nursing certification. The program will also analyze several outcomes such a comparison of retention rates of certified and non-certified nurses, and job satisfaction of nurses before and after certification support is implemented. These analyses will contribute to the overall body of knowledge related to nursing certification. Kemerer noted that “this program serves as a model nationally.”

Award recipients engage in activities related to certification that:

- * Benefit the public by promoting quality patient care and ensuring safety
- * Have influence beyond the individual or organization level – impact is felt community wide, state-wide, nationally, and/or internationally
- * Inform the public about specialty nursing certification and its value
- * Influence the process, standards, legal mandates relevant to specialty nursing certification specifically and/or certification in general
- * Advance the cause of specialty nursing certification.

For information about the *Retention through Certification Program*, developed by *Genesis Medical Center*, please contact Genesis Medical Center directly by visiting the website

www.genesishealth.com/news/2003/nursing_award.aspx, or calling Annette Holst at 563-421-2289, or by e,ailing her at HolstA@genesishealth.com.

Editors Note:

The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) is a membership organization that maintains a national peer review program for nursing specialty certification. The purposes of ABNS are to provide a forum for nursing certification collaboration, promote the value of nursing certification to various publics and provide a mechanism for accreditation and recognition of quality nursing specialty certification. Currently, twenty ABNS Regular Member and one Associate Member Organizations represent over half a million specialty certified registered nurses and its five 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, Executive Director, at ABNSCEO@aol.com.

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