
ABNS

American Board of Nursing Specialties

Promoting Excellence in Nursing Certification

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The American Board of Nursing Specialties Selects Recipient for 2005 Nursing Certification Advocacy Award

The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) announced today that Saint Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey, was selected as the recipient of the **2005 Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy**. The announcement was made by Ann Corrigan, Chair of the ABNS Awards and Recognition Committee, at the biannual Assembly Meeting of ABNS, held March 5, 2005, in San Diego, California.

"This award publicly recognizes individuals and organizations that advocate for, or promote specialty nursing certification, thus leading to quality patient care," stated Corrigan at the meeting. 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

The programs in place at Saint Peter's University Hospital support nurses seeking certification, recognize those that have succeeded and truly advance the value of nursing certification. A Magnet facility, Saint Peter's University Hospital has created a culture that believes in the value of specialty nursing certification for improving the quality of patient care. As a result, 62.3% of direct care nurses and 91% of nursing managers are certified! According to Kathleen Russell-Babin, RN, MSN, CNAA, APN-C, Vice President, Patient Care Services, "Since we all look for board certified physicians when we seek care, the leadership at Saint Peter's believes that patients are entitled to board certified nurses."

Of great significance is the result of research conducted at the hospital which showed that certified nurses exhibited higher levels of clinical judgment. Saint Peter's University Hospital promotes certification of its nurses in a multitude of ways, including providing a significant pay differential, paying certification fees, mounting certification plaques on the walls of nursing units and allowing certified nurses to display their credentials on their name badges, to name a few. Most importantly, the staff takes every opportunity to promote nursing certification to the public. As noted by Maureen Swick, PhD, RN, CNAA, President of the Organization of Nurse Executives for New Jersey, "Our patients ask us what certification means and we always tell them that we believe certification improves the quality of our patient care."

The Award will be presented to representatives of Saint Peter's University Hospital by the ABNS President, Judy Lentz, RN, MSN, NHA on May 6, 2005 in conjunction with Nurses Week. The awards ceremony will be held at the hospital. It is through efforts such as those demonstrated by this year's award recipient that the ABNS vision – ***Specialty nursing certification is THE standard by which the public recognized quality nursing care*** – will be achieved!

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 mission of ABNS is to promote the value of specialty nursing certification to all stakeholders. Currently, twenty-five ABNS Regular Member and one Associate Member Organizations represent nearly half a million specialty certified registered nurses. Its nine 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 ABNSCEO@aol.com.

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