



8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3492

1.800.284.2378
301.628.5000 *tel*
301.628.5004 *fax*

www.nursecredentialing.org

August 15, 2007

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) has announced the winners of the inaugural Accreditation Premier Program Award. The 2007 winners – announced at the ANCC Accreditation Program Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 30, 2007 – were chosen as the best-of-the-best in providing excellence in continuing nursing education.

Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)

The Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) is a specialty nursing organization which has an accredited Provider Unit (PU). This organization’s program is the accepted standard for teaching a type of patient monitoring appropriate within the obstetric and neonatal nursing practice. The monitoring program has achieved national recognition as a nursing education program and is the primary monitoring education program for select large healthcare systems in the United States. In Illinois and elsewhere, those who take the program are entitled to reduced malpractice insurance premiums.

Launched in 1993, the program met with immediate popularity and within the first ten years of its existence grew dramatically. The original workshop expanded from a small core group of instructors conducting 28 workshops and educating 357 participants to a current force of more than 1,900 instructors reaching 10,000 participants annually throughout the United States, Canada, and abroad. Since the launch of the program, more than 78,000 participants have attended the intermediate level course alone.

Underlying all of the Provider Unit’s educational programming is its fervent belief that clinical nursing practice should be based on the best available scientific evidence. Therefore, beginning in 1998, the association designed a process for clinical practice guideline development based on the American Nurses Association (ANA) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) frameworks for evidence-based guideline development. The PU has taken the next step—translating the guideline process and outcomes into educational product.

Nursing Spectrum Continuing Education (CE)

Nursing Spectrum Continuing Education (CE) is a division of Gannett Healthcare Group (GHG) (formerly Nursing Spectrum). Besides CE for nurses and other healthcare professionals, GHG provides regional career fairs and seminars; consulting services; and other products and services for RNs.

The most obvious example of Nursing Spectrum CE’s status as a model of learning excellence comes from the 250 healthcare organizations and systems that have contracted for access to Nursing Spectrum CE’s educational activities for their nurses through CE Direct®. Some organizations have been in this relationship for seven years or more, and the program has a 95% renewal rate.

As a testament to recognition of Nursing Spectrum as a role model for excellence in nursing CE, their courses have been regularly re-published by numerous magazines for nurses. Courses have also been reprinted in allied health and lay publications, such as *OR Today*, a trade magazine for surgical allied health professionals; in newspapers in Detroit, Des Moines, and Phoenix; and internationally. Additionally, some of their courses were published in a nursing newspaper in Athens, Greece (translated into Greek) for three years running.

The current Senior VP has received accolades and awards for his work in developing Nursing

Spectrum CE, including the New Jersey Governor's Merit Award as Educator of the Year, induction into Seton Hall University's inaugural Hall of Fame, and as alumnus of the year, May, 2007.

ANCC Accreditation Premier Program Award

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) is pleased to introduce the Premier Program Award for innovation in continuing nursing education programs. The Premier Program recognizes ANCC-accredited continuing nursing education providers that continually raise the bar for quality and/or employ cutting-edge practices in continuing nursing education. These organizations provide models and act as exemplars of excellence in the field of continuing nursing education.

Accredited organizations with Premier Program status are expected to mentor other continuing nursing education organizations, to continually provide and disseminate best practices, to publish, and to assist ANCC in advancing accredited continuing nursing education. Benefits of the Premier Program Award include widespread recognition among peers and a marketing advantage in attracting nurses who value the quality of the continuing nursing education programs that they attend. A discount on the ANCC accreditation fee is offered as a monetary benefit. Premier Program status is awarded for a two year period.

About ANCC

The American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) internationally renowned credentialing programs certify nurses in specialty practice areas, recognize healthcare organizations for nursing excellence through the Magnet Recognition Program®, and accredit providers of continuing nursing education. In addition, ANCC offers an array of informational and educational services and products to support its core credentialing programs.

ANCC is passionate about helping nurses on their journey to nursing excellence.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) is a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA).