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CCNE-ACCREDITATION

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **U.S. Department of Education Committee Votes to Renew CCNE Recognition**

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI), at its meeting on June 18-19, 2014, unanimously voted to recommend that the U.S. Secretary of Education renew recognition of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education's (CCNE) status as a recognized accreditor, finding that CCNE is a reliable authority to determine the quality of nursing education programs at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels, including programs offering distance education. NACIQI advises the Secretary of Education on matters related to higher education accreditation, and the Secretary is expected to act on this recommendation later this year.

"NACIQI's action affirms the work of CCNE's accredited programs, volunteers, and staff to maintain a high quality, peer review process. Without question, CCNE is the leading accreditor for nursing programs in higher education," said Judith F. Karshmer, PhD, PMHCNS-BC, Chair of the CCNE Board of Commissioners. "I am proud that CCNE upholds high standards while adhering to its core values, which include stimulating continuous quality improvement and fostering innovation in nursing programs."

This action by NACIQI attests to the quality of CCNE accreditation, signaling to the higher education community, healthcare professionals, and the public that CCNE-accredited nursing education programs are worthy of the public's trust. During the accreditation process, CCNE reviews program quality in regards to mission and governance, institutional commitment and resources, and curriculum and teaching-learning practices. Additionally, CCNE reviews program effectiveness, examining achievement of program, student, and faculty outcomes.

"CCNE has received unprecedented numbers of applications from nursing programs over the past two years, and that growth is expected to continue," commented Jennifer Butlin, EdD, CCNE Executive Director. "The staff and the evaluator pool have expanded to meet the growing demand and to ensure that CCNE is able to continue to provide the excellent support and customer service that our constituents now expect from our organization."

Since implementing its accreditation activities in 1998, CCNE has been the accreditor of choice for higher education nursing programs. Founded in response to the call from chief nurse administrators, faculty, and others to establish an accrediting body fully dedicated to advancing and promoting quality in nursing education programs at the baccalaureate and graduate levels, CCNE continues its commitment to an accreditation process that values collegiality and respects the diversity and autonomy of individual programs. Furthermore, the organization and structure of CCNE as the autonomous

accrediting arm of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing enables CCNE to operate with high integrity while avoiding conflicts of interest.

CCNE accredits over 1,200 baccalaureate degree, master's degree, and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs at more than 650 institutions in the United States and its territories. In response to the needs of its community of interest, CCNE has begun accrediting post-graduate certificate programs that prepare Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Additionally, CCNE has led the nation in the accreditation of post-baccalaureate nurse residency programs. For more information about CCNE accreditation or the application process, please visit <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation>.

*The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education is an autonomous accrediting agency contributing to the improvement of the public's health. CCNE ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate and graduate nursing education programs and post-baccalaureate nurse residency programs. As a voluntary, self-regulatory process, CCNE accreditation supports and encourages continuing self-assessment by nursing programs and supports continuing growth and improvement of collegiate professional education and post-baccalaureate nurse residency programs.*

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