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CCNE-ACCREDITATION

PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Department of Education Renews CCNE Recognition

The U.S. Department of Education has announced that it has renewed its formal recognition of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) as a national nursing accrediting agency, 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. CCNE received this renewal of its recognition for the maximum term possible.

This announcement, made by Acting Assistant Secretary Lynn B. Mahaffie, follows a multi-step review process. Earlier this summer, the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI), which advises the Secretary of Education on matters related to higher education accreditation, voted unanimously to recommend that the Department renew CCNE's recognition. The Department staff had recommended such a finding, as well.

"I am thrilled with the announcement made by Acting Assistant Secretary Mahaffie. CCNE is the nation's premier accrediting agency for nursing education programs at the baccalaureate and graduate levels, and it's clear that the Department of Education's continued recognition of CCNE is a testament to the rigor and integrity of the accreditation process, as well as its focus on quality improvement," said Judith F. Karshmer, PhD, PMHCNS-BC, Chair of the CCNE Board of Commissioners. "By engaging in continual self-assessment, the Commission is able to respond to the nursing profession while maintaining a trusted and valued accreditation process. This explains why there are record numbers of new applicants pursuing CCNE accreditation."

At a meeting today, the Board of Commissioners reviewed the letter from Acting Assistant Secretary Mahaffie, acknowledging the positive action, and commended the CCNE staff for their dedication and hard work in securing continued recognition of CCNE by the U.S Department of Education.

CCNE accreditation is based on compliance with the *CCNE Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs (Standards)* (2013). In accordance with the *CCNE Standards*, programs are evaluated in four areas: mission and governance; institutional commitment and resources; curriculum and teaching-learning practices; and assessment and achievement of program outcomes. Additionally, the *CCNE Standards* convey CCNE's 12 core values, which include, but are not limited to, "Foster trust in the process, in CCNE, and in the professional community" and "Maintain integrity through a consistent, fair, and honest accreditation process." The *CCNE Standards*, including the 12 core values, can be accessed at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation/Standards-Amended-2013.pdf>.

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. Earlier this year, in response to the needs of its community of interest, CCNE began reviewing post-graduate certificate programs that prepare Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. In October 2014, the CCNE Board of Commissioners will consider these first post-graduate APRN certificate programs for accreditation. Additionally, CCNE is the first organization in the country to accredit post-baccalaureate nurse residency programs. These programs are found in a variety of hospital settings across the country. 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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