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ANCC Names Karen Drenkard as Director of Magnet Recognition Program®

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) is pleased to name Karen Drenkard, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CPHQ as the new Director of its acclaimed Magnet Recognition Program®.

Dr. Drenkard most recently served as the Senior Vice President, Nursing/Chief Nursing Executive at Inova Health Systems, in Falls Church, Virginia. For the past eight years, Karen has been responsible for nursing practice, education, research, strategy, and operations across one of Washington, DC's largest healthcare systems. With more than 3,900 nurses and multiple service sites, Dr. Drenkard had oversight of the nursing leadership team and for implementing the vision for nursing services throughout the system.

During her tenure at Inova, she led three hospitals to successful Magnet designations and considers herself to be a champion of the program. She has published and presented extensively on the magnet Recognition Program. In addition, she has been widely recognized for leadership, most recently with awards from Nursing Spectrum (Nurse of the Year 2005, Advancing the Profession) and American Organization of Nurse Executives (Executive Nurse Scholar of the Year 2005).

"Karen is an acknowledged leader in her field. We look forward to sharing her vision, energy, and commitment to raising the level of nursing practice with all Magnet designated organizations," says ANCC Executive Director Jeanne Floyd, PhD, RN, CAE.

"We are lucky to have Dr. Drenkard join of the Magnet Recognition Program," says ANCC President Debbie D. Hatmaker, PhD, RN, SANE-A. "She will be able to lead this gold standard program to new heights."

Dr. Drenkard earned her PhD in Nursing with focus on administration, policy, and leadership from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia and an MSN from Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. Her experience includes significant teaching and research activities. She is a named member of the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (NACNEP), Virginia's Health Reform Commission, and (Virginia) Governor's Advisory Council on the Future of Nursing, *chair*. She is ANCC board certified as a Nurse Executive, Advanced.

Dr. Drenkard is scheduled to begin work with the Magnet Recognition Program on June 9, 2008.

About the Magnet Recognition Program®

The Magnet Recognition Program® was developed by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to recognize health care organizations that provide nursing excellence. The program also provides a vehicle for disseminating successful nursing practices and strategies.

Recognizing quality patient care, nursing excellence, and innovations in professional nursing practice, the Magnet Recognition Program provides consumers with the ultimate benchmark to measure the quality of care that they can expect to receive. When U.S. News & World Report

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publishes its annual showcase of "America's Best Hospitals", being a Magnet™ facility contributes to the total score for quality of inpatient care. Of the hospitals listed on the exclusive 2007 Honor Roll rankings (July 23, 2007), seven of the top ten were Magnet hospitals.

About ANCC

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA), provides individuals and organizations throughout the nursing profession with the resources they need to achieve practice excellence. ANCC's internationally renowned credentialing programs certify nurses in specialty practice areas; recognize healthcare organizations for promoting safe, positive work environments through the Magnet Recognition Program® and the Pathway to Excellence Program™; and accredit providers of continuing nursing education. In addition, ANCC provides leading-edge information and education services and products to support its core credentialing programs. www.nursecredentialing.org

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