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**NEWS RELEASE**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 30, 2009**

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**WESTON NAMED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR AMERICAN  
NURSES ASSOCIATION**

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – The Board of Directors of the American Nurses Association (ANA) takes great pride in announcing that Marla J. Weston, PhD, RN has been named chief executive officer (CEO), effective June 14, 2009. As CEO, Weston will be responsible for providing visionary, strategic, and progressive leadership for the ANA enterprise. In her new role, Weston will also serve as CEO of the American Nurses Foundation, the research, education, and charitable arm of ANA.

"In making the selection of Marla J. Weston, PhD, RN as ANA CEO, the board has provided ANA's diverse membership with a proven visionary nurse leader with stellar experience as a critical care nurse, hospital administrator, educator Constituent Member Association (CMA) executive director, and—most recently—a federal government official who possesses a unique mix of in-depth knowledge both of the nursing profession and of the association," said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. "I am confident that Weston's impressive professional experience and dedication will be invaluable assets not only to ANA and the members we serve, but to the nursing profession as a whole."

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## Weston Named ANA's CEO

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Prior to joining ANA, Weston gained extensive senior management experience in both large and small health care organizations. Since September 2008, she has served as deputy chief officer of the Workforce Management and Consulting Office at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C. Weston brought innovative leadership to the policies, programs, and initiatives that supported the employees who provide high-quality health care to veterans in all Veterans Healthcare Administration (VHA) facilities across the country.

Additionally, Weston's background includes being named as program director, workforce development, Office of Nursing Services, also at the Department of Veterans Affairs. In this key leadership role, she was responsible for improving the overall work environment for VA nurses, retaining and rewarding a skilled workforce, and improving the image of nursing while promoting nursing as an attractive career choice through collaboration with external partners.

"For nearly 30 years, I have had the honor of successfully working in leadership positions with boards, committees, and volunteers at the national, international, and local levels. It has been possible to build long-term, collegial relationships with many nursing leaders, government officials, and hospital, university, and community college administrators to advocate for programs and practices that support recruitment and retention, leadership development, diversity, quality improvement and program development. I look forward to bringing these skills to bear as CEO at ANA on behalf of the profession and the public we serve," said Weston.

Weston held the position of executive director at the Arizona Nurses Association, a constituent member association of ANA located in Tempe, Arizona. For over four years, she led the statewide professional association for registered nurses, with duties that included managing and coordinating staff and volunteer programs to promote and advocate for professional nursing practice on a state and national level. During her tenure, the organization's membership and revenues dramatically increased, including increased contributions to the Arizona Nurses Foundation.

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In addition to her membership in ANA, the Center for American Nurses, and the Arizona and Virginia nurses associations, Weston is a member of the American Colleges of Healthcare Executives, the American Organization for Nurse Executives, and Sigma Theta Tau

Weston earned a bachelor of science in nursing from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a master of science in Nursing from Arizona State University, and a doctorate in Nursing from the University of Arizona.

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*The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 51 constituent member nurses associations, its 23 organizational affiliates, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.*

