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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR IMMUNIZATION AWARD
Recognizing nurses who promote vaccinations

SILVER SPRING, MD – Registered nurses who demonstrate a strong commitment to increasing immunization levels through education and advocacy will have an opportunity to contend for a newly created “ANA Immunity Award” as part of the American Nurses Association’s (ANA) Bringing Immunity to Every Community project.

The award will honor nurses who have become champions of immunizations by demonstrating a high level of competency and leadership. The award program, launched in recognition of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Vaccine Awareness Month in August, will be presented monthly to a new nurse or nursing group, beginning in September 2010.

Bringing Immunity to Every Community aims to increase the knowledge and competency of the nation’s 3.1 million RNs in immunizations; to encourage nurses to be vaccinated; and to position nurses as leading advocates for immunization among peers, patients, and the public. The two-year initiative, a cooperative agreement between ANA and CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, focuses on maximizing nurses’ role in increasing vaccination rates and reducing incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases.

By being fully vaccinated themselves and by promoting vaccinations, nurses can serve as role models for improving public health through ensuring timely and comprehensive immunizations for children and adults. Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools for preventing disease and death, protecting not only vaccinated individuals, but also communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases.

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“Educating patients and communities on how to prevent disease and promote wellness is a fundamental core of nursing,” said ANA President Karen A. Daley, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN. “Through this award, we want to put a spotlight on RNs who are effectively promoting immunizations so others can see how it can be done.”

Registered nurses can apply for the ANA Immunity Award, either through self-nomination or nomination by a peer, online through Bringing Immunity to Every Community’s Web site, <http://www.ANAimmunize.org>, a one-stop shop for resources nurses need to be competent, educated advocates for immunizations. A review committee established under the Bringing Immunity initiative will evaluate applications against criteria – for example, evidence of successful implementation of a vaccination program at a hospital or advocacy for vaccination in communities with health care provider shortages – in selecting a monthly “champion.” The first monthly nomination deadline is September 10, 2010.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent member nurses associations, its 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.