ANCC’s Pathway to Excellence® Program Reaches Historic Milestone
100 Hospitals Have Now Earned the Prestigious Designation

SILVER SPRING, Md. — April 8, 2013 — The American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Pathway to Excellence® Program achieved a significant milestone. With its February designations there are now 100 organizations in the United States that have earned this esteemed organizational credential.

ANCC’s Pathway to Excellence Program recognizes healthcare organizations for creating positive practice environments where nurses excel. To qualify, hospitals must meet 12 practice standards essential to an ideal nursing practice environment. The standards focus on promoting a safe and healthy workplace, creating a collaborative atmosphere, and supporting nurses on the job.

“Pathway to Excellence provides a framework to ensure that a positive practice environment exists to deliver the best possible care to patients,” says Christine Pabico, MSN, RN, NE-BC Director, Pathway to Excellence Program. “As this important milestone shows, more and more healthcare organizations recognize the significant value and long-term benefits of this credential and opt to take the Pathway journey. They are seeing the return on investment and realize it’s the right thing to do for their nurses, their patients, and their organization.”

Research confirms that a workplace environment that engages and inspires nurses has a direct, positive impact on nurse satisfaction, retention which enhances patient care and safety. Nurses in Pathway-designated organizations know their efforts are supported and their contributions are valued. They invite their colleagues to join them in this desirable and nurturing environment. The prestigious Pathway credential also serves as a mark of excellence for consumers, assuring them they will receive safe and excellent patient care.

Pathway to Excellence began in 2003 as the Texas Nurse-Friendly™ Program, established by the Texas Nurses Association to enhance quality care and professional satisfaction of nurses in the state’s small, rural hospitals. ANCC acquired the Nurse-Friendly Program in 2007 and re-launched it nationwide as Pathway to Excellence in 2009. The following year, ANCC introduced Pathway to Excellence in Long Term Care®, the only program of its kind in the country to recognize the essential elements of an optimal nursing practice environment in the long-term care setting. “Using the Pathway to Excellence Practice Standards to create positive work environments for nursing staff adds value to every type of healthcare organization,” stated
Ellarene Sanders, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, chairperson of the Commission on Pathway to Excellence.

**About the Pathway to Excellence® Program**
The Pathway to Excellence® Program recognizes a healthcare organization’s commitment to creating a positive nursing practice environment. The Pathway to Excellence in Long Term Care® program is the first to recognize this type of supportive work setting specifically in long-term care facilities. Pathway organizations focus on collaboration, professional development, and accountable leadership to empower nurses.

**About ANCC**
The mission of the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA), is to promote excellence in nursing and health care globally through credentialing programs. ANCC’s internationally renowned credentialing programs certify and recognize individual nurses in specialty practice areas. ANCC recognizes healthcare organizations that promote nursing excellence and quality patient outcomes while providing safe, positive work environments. In addition, ANCC accredits healthcare organizations that provide and approve continuing nursing education. The ANCC Credentialing Knowledge Center™ offers educational materials to support nurses and organizations as they work toward their credentials. [www.nursecredentialing.org](http://www.nursecredentialing.org)

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