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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**July 11, 2011**

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### **ANCC Announces 2011 Accreditation Premier Program Award Winner**

SILVER SPRING, Md. — The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) is pleased to announce the winner of the 2011 Accreditation Premier Program Award. The 2011 winner was selected as a model of excellence in providing continuing nursing education.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center Premier Program recognizes ANCC-accredited continuing nursing education providers that continually raise the bar for quality and/or employ cutting-edge practices in continuing nursing education. The Premier Program Award winners have demonstrated leadership, innovation and creativity. These organizations act as exemplars of excellence in the field of continuing nursing education.

Accredited organizations with Premier Program status are expected to mentor other continuing nursing education organizations, to continually provide and disseminate best practices, to publish, and to assist ANCC in advancing accredited continuing nursing education. Benefits of the Premier Program Award include widespread recognition among peers and a marketing advantage in attracting nurses who value the quality of the continuing nursing education programs that they attend. Premier Program status is awarded for a two-year period.

#### **The American College of Cardiology**

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) is a nonprofit medical society comprising physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists and practice managers. ACC is a leader in the formulation of health policy, standards and guidelines, education and lifelong learning, and is a supporter of cardiovascular research.

With estimations of an increasing number of deaths from cardiovascular disease, and with an ever-diminishing number of physicians, the role of the non-physician members of the cardiology care team has become more critical than ever. Educational programs that offer clinical competencies in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease for members of the cardiac team are therefore essential for practitioners.

The American College of Cardiology is committed to setting a new standard for health care delivery in a way that is centered on increasing the quality of care and ensuring greater patient value. Several of the ACC's quality improvement initiatives are designed to allow cardiovascular professionals to share best practices and strategies around key issues such as reducing hospital readmissions and inappropriate imaging.

An uninterrupted systems approach to continuous quality improvement is an essential component of system transformation. This approach starts with the creation of evidence-based clinical guidelines and criteria for the appropriate use of new technology. The American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF) has led the way in the development of quality initiatives and tools designed specifically to help cardiovascular professionals bridge the gap between science and practice. Data collection, reporting and evaluation complete the cycle. To this end, ACCF's National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR<sup>®</sup> Registry) is the nation's premier recognized source for measuring and quantifying outcomes. Critical to this process is effective coordination within and across care teams and care settings, use of health information technology, and close attention to projected workforce needs.



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*Performance improvement* allows cardiovascular professionals to assess their clinical data to measure personal progress and compare their results to those of other clinicians. ACCF currently offers two PI-CME/CNE initiatives: *Keeping PACE: Patient-centered ACS Care Education* and *A New ERA: Evidence-based Stroke and Symptom Reduction in Atrial Fibrillation*. *Keeping PACE* and *A New ERA* combine the power of ACC's clinical registries with its internationally renowned education.

ACCF's PI-CME/CNE initiatives streamline practice review by allowing cardiovascular professionals to use NCDR Registry data that has already been collected. Brief and easy-to-complete self-assessment questionnaires along with patient surveys supplement clinical practice data, giving a complete picture of how the individual clinician and/or practice matches up to evidence-based care standards. The nursing professional's choice of educational activities, quality improvement tools and patient education resources are used to focus on specific performance measures to enhance patients' outcomes.

### **About ANCC**

ANCC 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<sup>®</sup> and the Pathway to Excellence<sup>®</sup> and Pathway to Excellence in Long Term Care<sup>™</sup> programs; and accredit providers of continuing nursing education. In addition, ANCC's Institute for Credentialing Innovation<sup>®</sup> provides leading-edge information and education services and products to support its core credentialing programs.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) has successfully achieved ISO 9001:2008 certification for all its credentialing programs. [www.nursecredentialing.org](http://www.nursecredentialing.org)

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