

**The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) is celebrating National Heart Awareness Month this February with a salute to its Certified Cardiac Vascular Nurses!** National Heart Awareness Month is celebrated each February to create awareness of the huge impact of heart-related illness and the efforts of many organizations and professionals working to prevent, treat and reduce it. February 13 – 19 is National Cardiac Rehabilitation Week; February 14<sup>th</sup> is Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day; and February 17 is National Women’s Heart Day. Heart disease has long been the number-one killer of Americans, its infamous top spot eclipsed only in recent years by cancer. Still, in its number two position it remains a key public health priority.

With 24 million people diagnosed with heart disease, ANCC-Certified Cardiac Vascular Nurses are increasingly in demand. These specialized nurses play varied roles in healthcare facilities, depending on the nature of the institution; some are involved in critical care and invasive procedures; others may be primarily concerned with diagnostic and preventative medicine in ambulatory care settings. The unifying factor for these respected professionals is the level of confidence that can be placed in them by administrators, colleagues and their patients. More and more healthcare facilities are learning of the benefits of hiring certified nurses. Meanwhile, increasing numbers of cardiac vascular nurses are seeking ANCC Certification because it validates their knowledge base.

One ANCC-certified nurse had this to say about being her certification: *“Being an ANCC Board Certified Cardiac Vascular Nurse has been an extraordinary experience for me. As a Nurse Educator for the Heart and Vascular Institute at Health Park Medical Center, professional certification has given me a world of new opportunities. It has allowed me to expand my professional practice, to serve as a role-model to other cardiac vascular nurses, and to enhance patient outcomes through the use of research and clinical evidence. Certification was never not an option for me; I simply needed to find the most credible and substantive representation of my professional practice. I believe that I have found that in the Cardiac Vascular Nurse Certification and I will maintain it throughout my professional career! With Sincere thanks, Elena C. Hanabarger, RN, BSN,BC.”*

Susan Karl, an ANCC-Certified Cardiac Vascular Nurse from New Jersey stated, *“Having a National Certification in Cardiac Vascular Nursing has been valuable...The Cardiac Vascular Nurse Certification improves patient outcomes and validates our competency.”*

ANCC has developed a Cardiac Vascular Nursing / Heart Awareness Month Poster, to honor the dedicated cardiac vascular nurses who attain certification, and to develop awareness of the growing need for certified cardiac vascular nurses; the poster will be distributed to the certified nurses for placement in their places of employment. ANCC has also issued a special Cardiac Vascular Certification Brochure, to help in getting word out to the nursing community about the availability of this important and valuable certification. There will also be a section on the ANCC website,

[www.nursecredentialing.org](http://www.nursecredentialing.org) to honor cardiac vascular nurses and where more of their comments regarding their feelings about their certification can be perused.

For more information please contact:

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