



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Indiana Center for Nursing
Phone: (317) 574-1325**

Statewide Nursing Organization Established to Assure Future of Indiana Nurses

Indiana Center for Nursing unifies three nursing organizations under one umbrella

Indianapolis, September 29, 2011 – Indiana nursing leaders have formed a new organization to assure the future of the nursing workforce and promote Indiana as a magnet state for nursing practice.

The Indiana Center for Nursing (ICN), a nonprofit 501(c)(3), incorporates Nursing 2000, Nursing 2000 North, and the Indiana Nursing Workforce Development Coalition under one organization to join the best practices and functions of all three organizations. ICN creates an entity that will serve to expand and enhance current services and secures the future of Indiana's licensed nursing workforce.

“The establishment of an Indiana Center for Nursing has been a vision of recognized state leaders who have had a strong commitment to the health of Hoosiers since 2002,” said Donna L. Boland, PhD, RN, ANEF, president of the interim board of directors of ICN and associate dean of evaluation at the IU School of Nursing. “Under the leadership of its board of directors and its new executive director Kimberly Harper, the center is focused on building partnerships that focus on making Indiana a magnet state for nurses and nursing by ensuring we have an adequate and well educated workforce to meet current and future demands.”

ICN is aimed at strengthening the voice of the nursing profession throughout the state. As a state-wide membership organization, ICN is working to expand service capacity and geographical scope of the recruitment and retention of nurses within Indiana's workforce, increase the opportunity to develop innovative educational and practice programming responsive to the needs of the nursing workforce in Indiana, optimize the strategic utilization of Indiana's nursing leadership in seeking solutions to the challenges the nursing workforce in

Indiana will face in the future, and increase options for creating and sustaining financial viability by broadening base funding opportunities.

Kimberly Harper, MS, RN, has been appointed executive director of the Indiana Center for Nursing. Harper has 35 years of healthcare experience in Indiana in roles that include nursing education, nursing practice, communications and philanthropy. Most recently she has served as interim executive director for Nursing 2000.

“I am honored to have been selected by my nursing colleagues to champion the initiatives of the Indiana Center for Nursing. This is an exciting time for nursing in Indiana, and I look forward to working collaboratively with nurses and other partners across the state and at the national level to influence state and national policies related to the healthcare workforce,” said Harper.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the U.S. is projected to experience a shortage of Registered Nurses (RNs) that is expected to intensify as Baby Boomers age and the need for healthcare grows. Compounding the problem is the fact that nursing schools across the country are struggling to expand capacity to meet the rising demand for care, given the national move toward healthcare reform. Indiana must be prepared for its future needs related to the nursing workforce.

“I chaired the Indiana Hospital Association (IHA) Nurse Shortage Task Force in the early 1990s and the gains made to date have not been enough. The creation of the Indiana Center for Nursing takes the importance of nursing in relation to jobs, education, and healthcare delivery to the next level of opportunity, health, and quality of life,” said Spencer Grover, vice president, Indiana Hospital Association.

ICN is a co-lead in the Indiana Action Coalition: Transforming Healthcare and has been nationally appointed by the Center to Champion Nursing in America to implement the national recommendations resulting from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report on the Future of Nursing. Outcomes from this work will result in the improvement of healthcare across Indiana. The Action Coalition, in partnership with Indiana Area Health Education Centers (IN AHEC), has, in only six months, gained national recognition for its ability to organize state-wide in a manner that moves Indiana forward in identifying and implementing innovative education and practice reform initiatives in the areas of interprofessional education and practice, patient safety,

nursing education and nursing practice. This organized momentum will be instrumental in leading the state's changes relating to the future of nursing.

“With the 2010 release of the IOM report and its Recommendations for the Future of Nursing and the creation of the Indiana Center for Nursing, all Indiana nurses will have the ability to play a role in this important work,” said Michelle Bisesi, RNC-OB, MSN, CNAA-BC, president of Indiana Organization of Nurse Executives and nursing director, Johnson Memorial Hospital.

Plans call for ICN to become one of Indiana's premier centers for philanthropic support of nursing education at the undergraduate and graduate level. Historically the organizations which have joined to form the ICN have already collectively provided well over \$1 Million in nursing scholarships in Indiana.

“The Indiana Center for Nursing will facilitate the centralization of resources for nurses in Indiana at a time when increasing workforce needs and information dissemination is at an all-time high,” said Anne Thomas, PhD, ANP-BC, GNP, chair, Council of Indiana Deans and Directors of Nursing Education and dean and associate professor at the University of Indianapolis School of Nursing. “We are excited about the opportunities to engage both nursing education and nursing practice leaders in discussions that will formulate a plan to shape the future of healthcare to best meet the needs of the citizens of Indiana.”

Officials from ICN are currently meeting with nursing leaders from across the state to gather ideas and create a clear vision for the goals of ICN and where it can be most helpful. The organization's members will represent nursing practice and educational organizations and other stakeholder groups from across the state.

###

Kimberly Harper, MS, RN, executive director of the Indiana Center for Nursing, is available for interviews. Members of the news media are invited to call 317-574-1325 to arrange interviews and photo opportunities. (Wishard Health Services is assisting with media relations for the Indiana Center for Nursing as an in-kind donation.)