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**Virginia Board of Nursing Honored with
National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)
2011 Regulatory Award for Excellence**

RICHMOND, VA—The Virginia Board of Nursing (BON) was awarded the 2011 National Council of State Boards of Nursing’s (NCSBN) Regulatory Award for Excellence at the August annual meeting. Each year, this top honor acknowledges the member board that made an identifiable, significant contribution to the work of NCSBN to promote public policy to advance the safe and effective practice of nursing in the interest of public welfare.

Nearly two-thirds of Virginia’s healthcare work force or 200,000 practitioners are licensed by the Board of Nursing. Under the leadership of Department of Health Professions (DHP) Director, Dianne L. Reynolds-Cane, M.D., BON is the largest of Virginia’s 13 health regulatory boards. According to Dr. Reynolds-Cane, “This is the first time the Virginia Board of Nursing has received NCSBN’s most prestigious annual award. Recognition by NCSBN speaks volumes about the accomplishments of the Commonwealth’s Board of Nursing and its commitment to meet the needs of licensees and the public under their care.”

Board of Nursing Executive Director, Jay Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., and C.S.A.C. says, “Practitioners and citizens appointed by the Governor for voluntary service on the BON are to be congratulated along with staff for recognition of their work to protect the public. It is an honor for the BON to be highlighted nationally by leading members of the nursing community. This accomplishment will go a long way to boost public confidence in the care people receive from BON licensees.”

Established in 1978, the NCSBN provides education, service, and research through collaborative leadership to promote evidence-based regulatory excellence for patient safety and public protection. The NCSBN Regulatory Excellence Award is made annually based on the following criterion:

- Active participation in NCSBN activities by board members and/or board staff;
- Effective leadership in the development, implementation and maintenance of licensing and regulatory policies;
- Active collaborative relationships among the member board, NCSBN, the public and other member boards.

It is the mission of Virginia’s health regulatory boards and the Department of Health Professions (DHP) to ensure safe and competent patient care by licensing health professionals, enforcing standards of practice, and providing information to health care practitioners and the public. Visit <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing/> for more information regarding the work of Virginia’s Board of Nursing (BON).

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