



For Immediate Release

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**Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Announces Outstanding Contributions to Rehabilitation Nursing
at 35th Annual Education Conference in Albuquerque, NM**

Glenview, IL: The Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) recognizes outstanding contributions made by members and chapters to the field of rehabilitation nursing each year through Leadership, Role and Chapters awards presented at the Annual Education Conference, which took place in Albuquerque, NM in October.

The board of directors awarded the **2009 ARN Distinguished Service Award** to Kathleen Stevens PhD RN CRRN, Director of Nursing Education at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. The ARN Distinguished Service Award is perhaps the single most prestigious award given by ARN. It recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to rehabilitation nursing and to our organization—and it is not necessarily presented every year.

The ARN President's Award, given at the President's discretion, was presented to Terri Patterson MSN RN FIALCP CRRN. Under Patterson's leadership as President of ARN, ARN's current strategic plan was launched and its implementation begun. Patterson presents a positive image of rehabilitation nursing, continues to promote ARN, and remains involved in developing chapter leaders to assume bigger leadership roles within the organization.

The ARN Role Awards acknowledge those nurses who have mentored and inspired us in various aspects of rehabilitation nursing.

The **Advanced Practice Nurse Award** recognizes a nurse in an advanced role who has contributed to the advancement of rehabilitation nursing. The recipient of this year's award is Laura Ferber MN RN CRRN. Ferber is a Clinical Nurse Specialist at Sharp Memorial Hospital in San Diego, California.

The **Case Manager Award** recognizes a nurse who has actively engaged the advancement of the case manager's role within the rehabilitation field. The recipient of this year's Case Manager Award is Susan Wirt BSN RN CCM CLCP CRP CRRN. Wirt is the owner of Wirt and Associates in Catawba, Virginia.

The **Educator Award** recognizes a nurse who has contributed to the advancement of rehabilitation nursing care in an academic or educational role. The recipient of this year's Educator Award is Christine Marlett. Marlett is a Clinical Nurse Educator at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California.



The **Nurse Manager Award** recognizes a rehabilitation nurse who contributed to the advancement of rehabilitation nursing care in a middle management position. This year's Nurse Manager Award goes to Dale Wong BSN RN CRRN. Wong is Nurse Manager at St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton, California.

The **Staff Nurse Role Award** recognizes outstanding practice by a rehabilitation nurse in a direct patient care role. This year's Staff Nurse Award is presented to Pauline Martin RN who is a Staff Nurse at St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton, California.

Chapter Awards recognizes an ARN chapter that provided an extraordinary educational event above and beyond the requirements designated by ARN. The educational event must reflect principles of the current trends in rehabilitation nursing.

The **Chapter Education Award** was given to the Maryland Chapter for their _____ event.

The **Chapter Communications Award** is given to the Los Angeles/Orange County Chapter chapter and recognizes a chapter that has excelled in regularly communicating with its members.

The Florida Chapter was awarded **Chapter of the Year**. This award is given in honor of a chapter that meets the criteria of the communication, community service, education and membership recruitment and retention awards.

Since 1974, ARN has been dedicated to promoting and advancing professional rehabilitation nursing practice through education, advocacy, collaboration, and research to enhance the quality of life for those affected by disability and chronic illness. ARN is comprised of more than 5600 nurse members located predominately in the United States and Canada. For more information about ARN member benefits, resources, and education, visit www.rehabnurse.org.

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