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J Taylor Harden named BAGNC Program Administrator

Expert in gerontology to join staff at the American Academy of Nursing

Washington, DC (November 15, 2011) – J Taylor Harden, PhD, RN, FAAN, currently the Assistant to the Director for Special Populations – at the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health, will assume the position of the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) Program Administrator on January 9, 2012.

When Dr. Harden joins BAGNC at its coordinating center at the American Academy of Nursing, she will be leading the BAGNC initiative and advancing policy efforts to improve the health and nursing care for elders on behalf of the Academy.

Dr. Harden is nationally recognized as a leader in gerontological nursing. Her career accomplishments are many and include extensive research activities and grant awards as well as numerous distinguished presentations, written articles, commentaries, and book chapters. Prior to joining the National Institutes of Health in 1994, Dr. Harden taught undergraduate and graduate courses nationwide. A U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Air Force flight nurse veteran, Dr. Harden served at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Washington, D.C., Walson Army Hospital at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and numerous Air Force bases across the U.S.

Dr. Harden is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and an Elected Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine and the Gerontological Society of America. She earned the NIH Merit Award for Women in Biomedical Research Careers from the NIH and is a Distinguished Alumnae of the University of Texas at Austin.

In a statement, Cheryl G. Sullivan, CEO of the American Academy of Nursing said, "Taylor Harden's commitment to the advancement of the field of gerontological nursing is unprecedented. The Academy will benefit greatly from her expertise as we continue to prepare nurse leaders in aging to advance health care policy and practice."

Patricia G. Archbold, DNSc, RN, FAAN, current Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) Program Administrator will retire at the end of 2011. Dr. Archbold's leadership has been instrumental in laying the foundation of the BAGNC initiative and its continuing success. Her dedication and leadership has contributed immensely to the field of gerontological nursing, and the country's aging population will benefit from her commitment to quality health care for decades to come.

"I am truly honored and humbled to take the helm of the Academy's BAGNC program supporting the preparation and leadership of nurses in geriatrics and gerontology," Dr. Harden said. "We have before us complex challenges and unprecedented opportunities in both policy and practice. I look forward to working with the leadership of the John A. Hartford Foundation Centers of Geriatric Nursing Excellence and want to thank Dr. Patricia Archbold for her leadership and service to the field of aging."

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