



Alaska's only Magnet Status Hospital Retains Distinction

**Alaska Native Medical Center
wins highest honor in nursing excellence – *Again!***

Anchorage, AK – Jan. 19, 2009 – For the second time, the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) has earned the highest honor offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). ANCC is the world's largest and most prestigious nurse credentialing organization.

ANMC first earned this distinction in 2003, and remains the first and only hospital in Alaska, and the first and only tribal hospital in the nation to receive Magnet Status. According to ANCC, fewer than 5 percent of hospitals nationwide achieve Magnet Status, and even fewer achieve re-designation.

"This award validates the outstanding care our employees provide to our patients every single day. We've set the standard in Alaska – now we're going to set the standard in the country," said Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Chief Executive Officer Don Kashevaroff.

"It's an honor to work with such a dedicated team of professionals whose expertise and pursuit of excellence is evident in everything they do," said ANMC Chief Nurse Executive Kathy Hillburn. "For all patients who come here and those already in our care, our Magnet designation assures them that ANMC's healthcare is of the highest quality in the nation."

The call announcing the designation came via a speaker phone surrounded by anxious staff members who work at ANMC. They burst into cheers upon hearing the good news from Gail Wolf, chairwoman of the Commission on Magnet Recognition.

In her phone call, Wolf said "in recognizing quality patient care, nursing excellence, and innovations in professional nursing practice, the Magnet Recognition Program gives consumers the ultimate benchmark to measure the quality of care that they can expect to receive."

When U.S. News & World Report publishes its annual showcase of America's Best Hospitals" status as a Nurse Magnet™ facility contributes to the total score for quality of inpatient care. Of the hospitals listed on the exclusive 2007 Honor Roll (July 23, 2007), seven of the top ten were Magnet hospitals. (For more information on Magnet status, visit ancc.org.)

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The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Southcentral Foundation jointly own and manage ANMC under the terms of Public Law 105-83. These parent organizations have established a Joint Operating Board to ensure unified operation of health services provided by the Medical Center.