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Contact: Polly Johnson at 919 810-6754, [polly.johnson@ffne.org](mailto:polly.johnson@ffne.org) or  
Diana D. Hatch at 919 819-1814, [wehatchem1@earthlink.net](mailto:wehatchem1@earthlink.net).

**The North Carolina Future of Nursing Action Coalition Named an Action Coalition to Help Ensure High-Quality, Patient-Centered Health Care**

*Announcement Coincides with First Year since IOM Report Release*

WASHINGTON (September 26, 2011) – **The NC Future of Nursing Action Coalition** has been selected as an Action Coalition by the Future of Nursing: *Campaign for Action*. This project is coordinated through the Center to Champion Nursing in America (CCNA), and sponsored by AARP, the AARP Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), to ensure all Americans have access to high-quality care, with nurses contributing to the full extent of their capabilities.

The NC Future of Nursing Action Coalition will work with the campaign to implement the recommendations of the 2010 landmark Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. **The NC Coalition’s Coordinating Council includes AARP North Carolina, Foundation for Nursing Excellence, East Carolina Center for Nursing Leadership, North Carolina Board of Nursing, North Carolina Nurses Association, and North Carolina Organization of Nurse Leaders.**

Since its release one year ago, the landmark report has made a considerable impact on the way stakeholders are viewing the nursing workforce:

- As of June 2011, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* became the most viewed online report in the IOM’s history and has sparked widespread activity to address the recommendations.
- CCNA has convened stakeholders through its Champion Nursing Coalition of 48 national health care, consumer, business and other organizations and Champion Nursing Council of 27 national nursing organizations to develop strategies to implement the IOM recommendations.
- In less than a year, groups have coalesced in nearly every state to respond to the IOM recommendations. Thirty-six states have campaign-designated Action Coalitions comprised of nursing, other health care, business, consumer and other leaders banded together to implement the IOM report recommendations.

“We are thrilled to add the NC Future of Nursing Action Coalition to the Action Coalition network,” said Susan B. Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, senior adviser for nursing at RWJF and director of Future of Nursing: *Campaign for Action*. “The *Campaign for Action* must work at every level to build and sustain the changes necessary to improve health care for all Americans. We know the contributions of the NC Future of Nursing Coalition will be invaluable as we move forward.”

“The expertise of our coalition members and our proven capacity to develop a coalition were key factors in being selected,” said Polly Johnson, President & CEO of the Foundation for Nursing Excellence. “As a participant in the movement to maximize the contributions of the nurses who deliver health care in our state and nation. The NC Future of Nursing Coalition is excited to bring its energy and ideas to this groundbreaking effort.”

Diana D. Hatch, AARP North Carolina State President, noted that the NC Coalition plans to focus on the four key areas: increasing access to care by decreasing practice barriers, increasing the proportion of baccalaureate-prepared nurses, expanding nurse leadership development and opportunities to lead change, and building an infrastructure for collection and analysis of interprofessional healthcare workforce data.

"Adding this new wave of 20 Action Coalitions represents a major step forward in the campaign's evolution," said Susan Reinhard, PhD, RN, FAAN, senior vice president of the AARP Public Policy Institute and CCNA chief strategist. "The NC Future of Nursing Action Coalition has already made great strides in North Carolina, and their application reflected capable leadership, clear goals and strong action plans."

The campaign seeks active participation from states, national organizations and individuals from health care, business, education, government and philanthropic sectors to ensure that the recommendations are translated into actions that result in improved patient-centered care. Specifically, the *Campaign for Action* is working to implement the recommendations of the IOM report with an emphasis on:

- Strengthening nurse education and training;
- Enabling nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and training;
- Advancing interprofessional collaboration among health care professionals to ensure coordinated and improved patient care;
- Expanding leadership ranks to ensure nurses have a voice on management teams, in boardrooms and during policy debates; and
- Improving health care workforce data collection to better assess and project workforce requirements.

For more information about the *Campaign for Action* go to [www.thefutureofnursing.org](http://www.thefutureofnursing.org).

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*The Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action envisions a health care system where all Americans have access to high-quality care, with nurses contributing to the full extent of their capabilities. The campaign is coordinated through the Center to Champion Nursing in America, an initiative of AARP, the AARP Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and includes 36 state Action Coalitions and a wide range of health care providers, consumer advocates, policy-makers and the business, academic and philanthropic communities.*