



News Release

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Nurse-Midwife Maternity Program Earns Prestigious Davis Productivity Award

Washington, DC - The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is proud to announce that The Nurse-Midwifery Program at the Martin County Health Department (MCHD) earned the 2003 Davis Productivity Award from The State of Florida, Florida Tax Watch, and the Florida Council of 100.

The Davis Award, named for JE and Al Davis, cofounders of Winn Dixie Stores and Florida tax Watch, recognizes state government employees, or those of public-private partnerships, whose work significantly increases productivity, reduces costs, improves the delivery of services, and enhances the quality of life of vulnerable populations.

"Florida women should feel particularly proud that their health care officials have realized the benefits that nurse-midwives offer their community. In these tough economic times, collaborative practice between midwives and physicians offers a model of care that meets the needs of women with competence and compassion and, at the same time, saves money," remarked **Mary Ann Shah, CNM, MS, FACNM**, President of The American College of Nurse-Midwives.

The program's performance is remarkable in that it was scrapped three years ago at Martin Memorial Hospital due to financial constraints, but since reestablishment at the MCHD facilities in Stuart and Indiantown, has saved the community \$350,000 per year.

The certified nurse-midwives at MCHD, Susan Brown, Cassandra Garcia, Cathy Griffin, and Katherine Wright provide prenatal care and attend an average of 400 births per year at Martin Memorial Hospital, approximately one third of all babies born in Martin County.

With the collaboration of local obstetrician-gynecologists, the nurse-midwives have created a successful maternity program that ensures access to prenatal care and hospital delivery services for the women and families of Martin County who may otherwise lack access to maternity care.

For more information, or to arrange an interview with this ACNM member, contact Shawn Farley by phone at 202-728-9876 or via email at sfarley@acnm.org.

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With roots dating to 1929, the American College of Nurse-Midwives is the oldest women's health care association in the U.S. ACNM's mission is to promote the health and well-being of women and infants within their families and communities through the development and support of the profession of midwifery as practiced by certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives. Midwives believe every individual has the right to safe, satisfying health care with respect for human dignity and cultural variations. More information about ACNM can be found at www.midwife.org.

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