



NEWS RELEASE

NEW MEXICO MIDWIFE RECEIVES HIGHEST HONOR FROM AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE-MIDWIVES

Dr. Leah Albers Honored for Lifetime of Contributions to Midwifery & Women's Health

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Silver Spring, MD – Dr. Leah Albers, CNM, DrPH, FACNM, FAAN, a certified nurse-midwife from Albuquerque, NM, is the recipient of the 2011 Hattie Hemschemeyer Award from the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). The “Hattie” is the College’s most prestigious award and was presented to Albers on May 25, 2011 at the ACNM 56th Annual Meeting & Exposition in San Antonio, TX.

A 1977 graduate of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Albers has been a member of the faculty at the University of New Mexico College of Nursing and Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology since 1991, and is currently a professor there. She practiced as a certified nurse-midwife in New York and North Carolina from 1977 to 1988.

“Dr. Leah Albers has dedicated her career to research, education, and practice in midwifery. She has increased maternity providers’ understanding of physiologically normal birth, the appropriate use of technology, and steps to decrease genital trauma at birth,” said ACNM President Holly Powell Kennedy, CNM, PhD, FACNM, FAAN.

“Her research has bolstered midwifery’s scientific credibility among maternity clinicians, and laid a strong foundation for evidence-based midwifery in the United States,” added Kennedy. “She is also a great mentor to student midwives and those beginning their careers. I am so pleased to honor her many contributions to midwifery with ‘The Hattie’ award.”

Albers was the first non-physician recipient of the Professor Geoffrey Thorburn Visiting Professorship by the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand. She was a 2005 recipient of the A.C.N.M. Foundation’s Dorothea M. Lang Pioneer Award for Research and also received a research award from Lamaze International. Albers was inducted as a Fellow of ACNM in 1997 and won an Excellence in Writing, Best Paper award from ACNM in 1999. She serves on the editorial boards of *Midwifery* and *Birth*, and is a peer reviewer for the *Journal of Midwifery & Women’s Health*.

The Hattie Hemschemeyer Award, named in honor of ACNM’s first president and a pioneer of the profession, is given annually to an ACNM member who has been certified for at least 10 years, has not previously been selected for the award, and has fulfilled one of the following categories: continuous outstanding contributions or distinguished service to midwifery and/or maternal child health; or, has made contributions of historical significance to the development and advancement of midwifery,

ACNM, or maternal-child health.

NOTE TO PHOTO EDITORS: Photos from the award presentation are available. Please contact Cassie Moore, ACNM Writer and Editor, at (240) 485-1822, or via e-mail at cmoore@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 newborns 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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