



# NEWS RELEASE

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**DC-AREA MIDWIFE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FROM  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE-MIDWIVES  
Mayri Sagady Leslie Honored for Contributions to Midwifery and Women's Health**

**Silver Spring, MD** – Mayri Sagady Leslie, CNM, MSN a certified nurse-midwife from Alexandria, VA received the 2007 “Kitty Ernst Award,” one of the most prestigious honors awarded by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), during the ACNM 52nd Annual Meeting & Exhibit, in Chicago, Illinois, on May 26, 2007. Leslie is the 10th recipient of the award.

Leslie completed her nurse-midwifery education ten years ago and is already a recognized leader in the midwifery community. She started out at Frontier School of Midwifery & Family Nursing with a Kitty Ernst scholarship and received her master's of science in nursing (MSN) at Case Western Reserve University. After two years as a staff nurse-midwife at The BirthPlace, a freestanding birth center in San Diego, she took on the directorship of the University of California at San Diego Nurse-Midwifery Service and the UCSD Birth Center in February 2000. This practice was unique as it combined an in-house birth center for low risk women with a traditional tertiary care labor & delivery unit. The nurse-midwifery practice, under Leslie's direction, assisted over 6,000 women to have safe and satisfying birth experiences. Leslie is currently serving on the faculty of the Georgetown University Nurse-Midwifery Program.

“Mayri was described by one of her nominators as ‘a living exemplar of an evolved human being, an extraordinary nurse-midwife, and a recognized leader with great potential,’” said Katherine Camacho Carr, CNM, PhD, former ACNM President during the award presentation.

Leslie is one of the founders of the Coalition for Improving Maternity Services (CIMS), served as the national chair from 2000-2002, and continues to serve on the organization's board.

The Kitty Ernst Award, or more affectionately known as the “Young Whippersnapper

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Award,” is named after Kitty Ernst, CNM, the College’s fourth and youngest president, and one of its most dynamic living legends. Kitty herself bestows the award, complete with a purple hat and feather boa, replicas of those worn annually by Kitty herself. The Kitty Ernst Award was established in 1998 to honor a certified nurse-midwife (CNM) who has been certified for less than 10 years and demonstrated innovative, creative endeavors in clinical practice, education, administration, or research relating to midwifery and women’s health.

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**For more information, please contact Rebecca Jacob, Communications Manager at 240-485-1822 or via email at [rjacob@acnm.org](mailto:rjacob@acnm.org). Photos are available upon request.**

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](http://www.midwife.org).

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