



NEWS RELEASE

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Tennessee Nurse-Midwife Receives Prestigious Award from American College of Nurse-Midwives

Tonia Moore-Davis Recognized for Contributions to Midwifery and Women's Health

SILVER SPRING, MD— Tonia Moore-Davis, a certified nurse-midwife (CNM®) of Tennessee, received the Kitty Ernst award—one of the most prestigious honors given by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). Moore-Davis accepted the Kitty Award on Sunday, June 13, during the College's 55th Annual Meeting & Exposition in Washington, DC. The Kitty Award honors an exceptional midwife that has demonstrated innovative endeavors in clinical practice, education, administration or research, and has been certified for less than 10 years.

In 2005, Moore-Davis joined the Vanderbilt University nurse-midwifery faculty and the school's clinical practice, where she currently serves as the clinical practice manager. In addition, she teaches medical students, midwifery students and obstetrical residents at the university's school of nursing; in this position, she won the Vanderbilt OB/GYN Department's educator of the year honors for two consecutive years. Before joining the Vanderbilt staff, Moore-Davis worked at the Trover Foundation in Madisonville, Kentucky, where she provided full-scope midwifery care to an underserved, rural population. Also, Moore-Davis serves on the board of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), which is committed to the education of future health care professionals. Moore-Davis is also recognized as a well-renowned speaker for the association.

Moore-Davis serves as secretary for the Midwifery Business Network. She has served as a member of the ACNM Quality Management Committee and the Tennessee Initiative for Perinatal Quality Care; and several patient care and safety committees at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Moore-Davis earned a master's in nursing with a midwifery focus at the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her bachelor's in nursing at Johns Hopkins University.

In presenting the award, Melissa Avery, CNM, PhD, FACNM, FAAN, ACNM outgoing president, said, "Tonia is tireless and passionate in her work. She teaches clinical skills and the business aspects of clinical practice as well. A colleague noted, 'Under her leadership, the number of midwifery-attended births has nearly doubled at Vanderbilt [University Medical Center] and other innovative practice models have been established,'

and another colleague said, 'Tonia is going to be a major leader in midwifery, if her start is any indication.' It is a distinct pleasure to present her with this year's Kitty Ernst award."

The Kitty Ernst Award, affectionately known as the "Young Whippersnapper Award," is named after ACNM's fourth and youngest President, who is also one of its most dynamic living legends. The Kitty Ernst award was established in 1998 to honor a midwife who has been certified for less than 10 years and has demonstrated innovative, creative endeavors in clinical practice, education, administration, or research relating to midwifery and women's health.

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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.

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