



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Linnea Windel MSN, RN, FAAN, VNA Health Care’s President & CEO was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing during a ceremony held on November 3. This prestigious recognition highlights Ms. Windel’s leadership and contributions to advancing the mission of the Academy which is to serve the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy, practice and science through organizational excellence and effective nursing leadership.

Ms. Windel has focused her career on improving the health of communities, and specifically, care for those with the greatest socio-economic challenges. Serving as President and CEO of VNA Health Care since 1999, she marshalled resources, public support and grant funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to establish a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Ms. Windel developed and implemented an effective, efficient and innovative model of primary care that emphasizes the role of nurses, the importance of same-day care and a broad range of services including home-based programs.

VNA Health Care is consistently recognized by HRSA as a Health Center Quality Leader and is now one of the largest FQHC’s in the U.S. and the largest in the Chicago suburbs. Over 500,000 patients have been served during Ms. Windel’s tenure, helping to improve outcomes and close health disparities using person-centered care and delivering that care at a lower than average overall cost.

“We are delighted but not surprised that Linnea has been selected for this impressive honor,” said Gary Ahasic, VNA Board of Directors Board Chairman. “She has dedicated her career to nursing excellence for the benefit of people with limited resources and I am so pleased that the American Academy of Nursing has recognized her significant contribution, not only to nursing, but to improving the lives of families across VNA’s service area.”

Ms. Windel received a BSN from Illinois Wesleyan University and a MSN from Aurora University. She is a graduate of the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows program. She has served on a number of national, state and local boards, offering a perspective on the role of nursing and access to care for the most vulnerable.

VNA Health Care operates 14 clinics in suburban Chicago and serves over 72,000 people a year. VNA is nationally ranked as a top performing health center as a result of patient outcomes such as prenatal care, adolescent weight screening and counseling, vascular disease treatment, blood pressure control, healthy birth weights, and asthma care. VNA’s combination of convenience (by appointment or walk-in), patient-centered technology and expert care delivered with respect and compassion have led to these results. VNA is accredited by The Joint Commission. # # #