The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is the professional association that represents certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) in the United States. With roots dating to 1929, ACNM sets the standard for excellence in midwifery education and practice in the United States and strengthens the capacity of midwives in developing countries. Our members are primary care providers for women throughout the lifespan, with a special emphasis on pregnancy, childbirth, and gynecologic and reproductive health. ACNM reviews research, administers and promotes continuing education programs, and works with organizations, state and federal agencies, and members of Congress to advance the well-being of women and infants through the practice of midwifery.

ACNM’s Mission: Advancing the health and well-being of women and newborns by setting the standard for midwifery excellence.

Annual Review:

State Legislative and Policy Advocacy
- Advocated to help implement the APRN consensus model or protect it from challenges in LA, KS, MO, MN, MI, NV, FL.
- Helped pass legislation calling for a study committee to evaluate need for physician supervision of CNMs in NC, and supported rulemaking in MD to remove supervision/collaboration requirements for CNMs

Federal Activities
- Worked collaboratively with the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) on the bipartisan introduction of HR4385, which would designate maternity care health professional shortage areas.
- Worked with HRSA to disseminate information about ACA to our members.
- Championed the following other federal legislation: Protecting Access to Primary Care Act (HR2986), Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act of 2013 (HR896), and MOMS 21 (HR2286)
- ACNM chairs the federal lobbying coalition, the Coalition for Quality Maternity Care (CQMC)

Other Activities
- Global Health
  - ACNM is the Secretariat for the USAID Global Development Alliance, Survive & Thrive, an alliance with professional associations ACOG and AAP to develop a framework for
global health scholars and university affiliation to participate in global health efforts, and develop and implement high impact clinical interventions in partner countries.

- Continue to expand support for ACNM members working in global health
- Continue to implement and expand ACNM grant-funded maternal-newborn health programs

**Championing Normal Physiologic Birth Among Consumers and Clinicians**

- Published and disseminated new consumer materials, *Normal Healthy Childbirth for Women & Families: What You Need to Know*
- May 2014: launching a new independent Web site www.BirthTOOLS.org (Tools for Optimizing Outcomes of Labor Safely) designed to provide tools for providers and stakeholders, and tied to national initiatives, to improve safety and quality in maternity care.

**Strengthening the US midwifery profession**

- Through our ongoing midwifery public awareness campaign, *Our Moment of Truth*, conducted a study on *Knowledge and Misperceptions About Birth Control Options and Effectiveness*
- Diversification and Inclusion Initiative: A consultant is guiding us to develop a long-range D/I initiative
- Continue to support growth and development of our state affiliate organizations. ACNM members have invested $1M in affiliates since 2011.
- Updated our position statement on *Principles for Licensing and Regulating Midwives in the United States in Accordance with the Global Standards of the International Confederation of Midwives*
- Through the *US Midwifery Education, Regulation, and Association (US MERA) workgroup*: Worked with national membership organizations, the educational accreditor, and certifier of Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) to align minimum midwifery education standards with *International Confederation of Midwives global standards*.

**Plans for the Future:**

- ACNM will celebrate our 60th Anniversary at the ACNM 60th Annual Meeting & Exhibition, June 26 - 30, 2015, at the Gaylord National Harbor.
- We are building on ACNM’s successful annual midwifery practice voluntary Benchmarking Project to facilitate broader data collection by ACNM members on national quality measures and other key clinical and business measures. In 2012, ACNM members submitted data on nearly 100,000 births.
- We are expanding our portfolio of publications and educational programs to serve our member needs, including development of new clinical and practice resources for new practitioners, for midwives performing ultrasound, and clinicians involved in home birth.
- Work with CPM community to develop accredited, direct assessment midwifery education programs for entry-level clinicians by 2020, and support licensure for midwives who have completed accredited education programs by 2020, consistent with their scope of practice.

**Concluding Comments:**

Midwifery is a growing profession; the number of new CNMs and CMs certified by the American
Midwifery Certification Board is growing more than 15% annually. There is a documented shortage of obstetricians and gynecologists, and there is a heightened multi-stakeholder awareness of the need to improve the quality of maternity care in the US. ACNM will continue its vigorous efforts to ensure that all women can have access to high-quality midwifery care.