



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Two members of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses to be Inducted as Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing**

**Washington, D.C.** - The National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) is pleased to announce that Dr. Judith Aponte and Mary Jo Jerde will be inducted as Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing on October 7, 2017 during the 2017 AAN Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. NAHN will celebrate their accomplishments and those of other NAHN members who are fellows at a cocktail reception following the induction ceremony.

"Membership into the academy is a professional honor and one which is very meaningful. It is a validation and recognition of nurses' efforts towards improving health delivery in our country and we are proud of the NAHN members being inducted," said Anabell Castro Thompson, MSN, APRN, ANP-C, FAAN, President of NAHN.



**Judith Aponte, PhD, RN, CDE, CCM, APHN-BC**, a Hispanic nurse, educator, researcher and speaker, is a tenured Associate Professor at Hunter College School of Nursing, City University of New York. She specializes in researching diabetes and diabetes-related issues affecting Hispanic subgroups with diabetes. A fellow at the Academy of Medicine, Dr. Aponte received an award in the 2014 New York/New Jersey Nursing Excellence in Giving Excellence Meaning in the category of Advancing and Leading the Profession. As a newly appointed editor-in-chief of the Hispanic Health International (HHCI) Journal, she was presented a Suzanne Smith Mentoring Editors Award in 2016. Dr. Aponte's dedication and commitment to Hispanics and people with

diabetes is evident by her involvement in teaching patients, nursing students and others about diabetes. She serves as a member of NAHN's Council of Business Advisors (CoBA)



**Mary Jo Jerde, MBA, BSN, RN, NEA-BC**, Senior Vice President, Center for Clinician Advancement with UnitedHealth Group of Minnetonka, Minnesota, is a results-oriented healthcare leader with extensive expertise in strategic thought leadership, operations and project management. Through her work with UnitedHealth Group, she focuses on the deployment of programs to improve nurse engagement, reduce voluntary turnover, promote health and well-being, and support the personal and professional development of the more than 20,000 company nurses. Ms. Jerde has been with UnitedHealth Group since 2007. She serves as member of NAHN's Council of Business Advisors (CoBA).

The American Academy of Nursing's approximately 2,580 fellows are nursing leaders in education, management, practice and research. Fellows represent association executives; university presidents, chancellors and deans; elected officials; state and federal political appointees; hospital chief executives and vice presidents for nursing; nurse consultants; and researchers and entrepreneurs. Academy fellows also have a responsibility to contribute their time and energies to the Academy, and to engage with other health leaders outside the Academy in transforming America's health system.

### **About NAHN:**

NAHN is actively involved in issues affecting Hispanic nurses and the health of Hispanic communities on local, state, regional and national levels. The organization is committed to providing equal access to education, professional and economic opportunities for Hispanic nurses and towards improving the health and nursing care for Hispanic consumers.