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***NIFA and Colorado Technical University  
Partner with AORN in Surgical Safety Efforts***

(Denver, Colo., April 8, 2009) – The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) today announced two new Corporate Partnerships with the National Institute of First Assisting (NIFA) and Colorado Technical University (CTU). Through these relationships, which officially began on January 1, 2009, AORN is able to provide its membership of more than 42,000 perioperative professionals with practice support and development opportunities that promote safety and optimal outcomes for patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures.

As the Management Resource Corporate Partner, NIFA exclusively funds *AORN Management Connections*, the monthly online newsletter for nearly 13,000 perioperative OR Directors/Managers that includes up-to-the minute recommendations and best practices for the operating room and care of the surgical patient. The NIFA Corporate Partnership also supports AORN's efforts to provide valuable leadership training and networking opportunities specifically for perioperative nurse managers and aspiring leaders at annual events such as Congress and the association's Leadership conference.

In its decision to fund *AORN Management Connections*, Jeremy Gofton, RN, CNOR, RNFA, RNFA Program Director described the organization's goal to help OR management facilitate and ensure safe practices with educational programs to address all disciplines first assisting in surgery. "Supporting the Association is one of the most rewarding things I love about working with NIFA. We are proud of our partnership. During this economic downturn, now is the time for our fellow programs and other vendors to give back to our community." said Gofton.

As Educational Corporate Partner, CTU's funding supports the development and distribution of AORN educational programs and professional development instruction. AORN programs, including Periop 101, Prep for CNOR, accredited continuing education opportunities, and the Quarterly Perioperative Webinar Series, provide the fundamentals of perioperative nursing, address critical topics, and introduce emerging technologies and best practices.

"It is a natural for CTU to partner with AORN," said Brett Harris, director of marketing for CTU. "We support the Association's commitment to patient safety and demonstrate this by providing nurse candidates and those in practice with educational resources and career advancement opportunities online and at our ground campuses."

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Linda Groah, RN, MSN, CNOR, FAAN, Executive Director/CEO of AORN, added, “It is partnerships such as these that enable AORN to support its membership and the entire perioperative community with the tools they need for excellent patient care. Very simply put, we can’t do it without them.”

#### **About NIFA**

The National Institute of First Assisting, NIFA, was founded in 1995 with the effort to fill a need for quality first assistant in surgery training. NIFA specializes in hands-on training for all its students before seeing their first patient with their respective preceptors. Today, NIFA has successfully trained thousands of practitioners in all 50 states and abroad and maintains its goal of ensuring that all future patients can benefit from a well-trained First Assistant at surgery [www.nifa.org](http://www.nifa.org)

#### **About CTU**

Colorado Technical University (CTU) offers career-oriented Associate, Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degree programs in a wide range of professional fields including Health Sciences, and partners with AORN to offer a BS in Nursing (RN to BSN) degree completion program for AORN members. In addition to ground campuses in Colorado, Missouri and South Dakota, CTU offers online course sessions, discussion boards and multi-media flash presentations with 24/7 technical support, online library access and tutoring labs, CTU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. [www.ctuonline.edu](http://www.ctuonline.edu).

#### **About AORN**

AORN, Inc., the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, represents approximately 42,000 Registered Nurses in the U.S. and abroad who facilitate the management, teaching and practice of perioperative nursing, or who are enrolled in nursing education or engaged in perioperative research. Its members also include perioperative nurses who work in related business and industry sectors. AORN's mission is to support RNs in achieving optimal outcomes for patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures. AORN promotes quality patient care by providing its members with education, standards, services and representation. For more information, visit [www.aorn.org](http://www.aorn.org).

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