



**CIRCLE
OF EXCELLENCE 2026**



Northern Illinois Chapter
Excellence in Promoting the Value of Certification

The Northern Illinois Chapter of AACN, Rockford, is intentionally rebuilding a strong culture of certification by making professional credentials visible, attainable and celebrated. The chapter promotes certification as a mark of clinical credibility, professional pride and commitment to excellence in patient outcomes. NIAACN includes certification promotion in all educational programming through Certification Spotlights that highlight nurses with CCRN, PCCN, CSC and other credentials and their impact on bedside decision-making and leadership. Chapter educational events offer CEs aligned with AACN renewal categories, reducing barriers to certification renewal and supporting long-term retention. Innovative initiatives such as CCRN Trivia Night provide community-supported preparation in an engaging, low-stress environment. Beyond the bedside, NIAACN advances public recognition through civic engagement, including a Mayoral Proclamation recognizing Certified Nurses Day. Together, these strategies support the certification journey and a shared professional standard of excellence.