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## U.S. program meets international nurses' licensing needs

By Jane Ammeson

Colorado

When Jemima Fritz moved in 2010 with her husband and children from Alice Springs, Australia, to Denver, Colo., she assumed her nursing credentials, equivalent to a BSN in the U.S., would suffice for getting licensed. Then she found out she needed to take the National Council Licensure Examination.

After obtaining contact information from the Colorado Board of Nursing, Fritz called Westminster, Colo.-based, Cannon Health Care Consulting and Education, started in 2007 to assist nurses with licensing issues. The company, founded by Annette Cannon, RN, PhD, MA, MSN-L, is supported by the Colorado Workforce, allowing participation in the Ameri-

can Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. CHCCE's programs, covering areas such as NCLEX refresher and review courses for both RNs and LPNs, also are approved by the State Board of Nursing.

"I designed all the programs to address the needs of both the novice and expert nurse," Cannon said. "That includes passing NCLEX, renewal of the nursing skills required to return to the workforce, remediation for nurses and the special needs of the internationally educated nurse. To do so, Cannon added Virginia Smith, RN, MSN, PhD, to the team. Smith specializes in international nurses' needs. In 2009, Cannon added the Learning Division to the business, which offers innovative education and training programs both in the classroom and online.

CHCCE assisted Fritz in contacting the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools, reviewed her transcripts and consulted with the State Board of Nursing to determine Fritz's specific needs. Fritz then enrolled in an NCLEX review course,

which is an open-time, self-paced online study. The process took about four months with the assistance of a personal tutor specializing in international students.

"Annette helped me with my credentialing as well," said Fritz, now a licensed RN working in the NICU at Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center. "Within a month of taking my boards, I had been hired at a surgery center in downtown Denver."

A nurse who is **educated internationally** can provide the employer with **diversity** ... which is beneficial in current patient care settings.

— Annette Cannon, RN  
Founder, Cannon Health Care Consulting and Education

Cannon believes the services she offers, including online, classroom and hands-on training, helps not only nurses but hospitals by addressing both the nursing shortage and the quality of healthcare.

"The demand [for nurses] is growing yearly, especially as our population ages," Cannon said. "Therefore, our nursing programs are twofold, benefiting the health-care employer with a well-prepared nurse to provide safe, quality care for patients and revitalizing our nursing workforce. In addition, a nurse who is educated internationally can provide the employer with diversity — through culture and possibly by knowing a second language — which is beneficial in current patient care settings."

Always moving forward, Cannon is working on adding several courses, including pharmacology review and critical thinking.

For Fritz, it was reassuring to know that she could rely on CHCCE. "I was always able to use them if I needed anything," she said. "It's a great program, and Annette is very keen to help." •

Jane Ammeson is a freelance writer.



MORE INFORMATION @ [CannonHealthcare.webs.com](http://CannonHealthcare.webs.com).

## NOTABLE NURSES