



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The American Nurses Association of Massachusetts is pleased to announce the appointment of Carmela A. Townsend, DNP, MS/MBA, RN as Interim Executive Director. She succeeds Diane O'Toole, who had served in that role since 2010.

Dr. Townsend has over twenty five years of experience as a registered nurse, educator, and association executive. She received her BSN from the University of Connecticut, and was the first graduate from Northeastern University's joint Master of Science in Nursing/Master of Business Administration Program. Her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree focused on Nursing Education, and her research "*It Was a Light Coming Through*": *African American Nurses' Perceptions of a Collaborative Nursing Leadership Program*" was presented this summer at the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Research Congress in Melbourne, Australia. Most recently she served as Director of Nursing at Massachusetts Bay Community College; prior to that Dr. Townsend was Assistant Dean and Associate Professor at Regis College and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Cammie is a founding member of ANA Massachusetts and served as the first Director of Association Management; she has been involved with its ANCC Accredited Approver Unit since 2003.

Townsend says "I am thrilled to step in to this role and support our members and my colleagues in operationalizing the mission and vision of this vital and thriving professional organization. I am so proud of all that ANA Massachusetts has accomplished and look forward to the next few months as we tackle some challenging issues and move nursing's agenda for patient safety and quality care forward, both in the Commonwealth and nationally."

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*The [American Nurses Association of Massachusetts \(ANA MASS\)](http://www.anamass.org) is committed to the advancement of the profession of nursing and of quality patient care across the Commonwealth. As a constituent member of the American Nurses Association, ANA Massachusetts is recognized as the voice of registered nursing in Massachusetts through advocacy, education, leadership and practice. For more information, visit [www.anamass.org](http://www.anamass.org)*