



National Association of School Nurses

For Immediate Release

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Former Surgeon General Novello to Speak at School Nursing Centennial

*-Current N.Y. State Health Commissioner to help celebrate 100 Years of Caring for America's Children at
Henry Street Settlement -*

(Castle Rock, CO.) Dr. Antonia Novello, New York State Health Commissioner, and former Surgeon General of the United States, has accepted an invitation to be the keynote speaker at the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) celebration of "100 Years of Caring for America's Children." The media event will kick off at the historic Henry Street Settlement in New York City on Tuesday, October 1st, at 10:30 a.m. at the site where school nursing for America's children all began.

Prior to being appointed as the New York State Health Commissioner, Dr. Novello served as the 14th Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service. Her appointment marked two firsts: she became the first woman and the first Hispanic ever to hold this position. As Surgeon General, Dr. Novello advised the public on health matters, such as smoking, AIDS, diet and nutrition, environmental health hazards, and the importance of immunization and disease prevention. She also directed the activities of the 6,100 members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

In her current position, Dr. Novello heads one of the leading public health agencies in the nation. Some responsibilities of her position include: Medicaid; Child Health Plus; Youth Tobacco Enforcement and Prevention; regulation of nursing homes and home health agencies; Managed Care, and implementation of the Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund.

"I am honored that Dr. Novello will take time from her busy schedule to help kick off this year-long celebration of School Nursing in America," said Linda C. Wolfe, R.N., president of NASN. "Dr. Novello has spent her entire career helping Americans enjoy a healthy lifestyle. From the young to the elderly, she has devoted herself to educating all Americans on nutrition, smoking cessation, immunizations and disease prevention, to name a few." Added Wolfe, "The role of today's School Nurse is nearly identical, and I cannot think of another person more appropriate to help us celebrate 100 years of school nursing than Dr. Novello."

It was one hundred years ago that Lillian Wald, founder of the Henry Street Settlement, made the decision to place a public health nurse – Lina Rogers Struthers – into a New York City school in hopes of reducing absenteeism due to communicable diseases. This "experimental" placement of a nurse quickly led to the employment of additional school nurses in New York City and across the country. As more and more

nurses were hired, the role of the school nurse expanded to include an emphasis on student wellness, disease prevention and health education, not only for the student, but for family members and the community as well.

The kick-off celebration will begin with welcoming remarks from the NASN President, followed by a presentation on the history of school nursing in America. Comments will also be provided by Dr. Novello and other school and healthcare leaders. Several students from around the country will also share experiences on how school nursing has impacted their lives. The ceremony will conclude with the presentation of a \$5,000 nursing scholarship, followed by a tour of the Henry Street Settlement and reception in the historic dining room at 265 Henry Street.

For more information, visit the NASN website at www.nasn.org to find out how states and schools across the nation will be celebrating this landmark year.

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