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### **SUSAN SWART EARNS CERTIFIED ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE CREDENTIAL**

Washington, DC (June 25, 2012) – ASAE has announced that Susan Swart, MS, RN, executive director of ANA-Illinois and the Illinois Nurses Foundation, has earned the Certified Association Executive (CAE®) credential. The CAE is the highest professional credential in the association industry. Less than five percent of all association professionals have earned the CAE.

To be designated as a Certified Association Executive, an applicant must have a minimum of three years experience in nonprofit organization management, complete a minimum of 100 hours of specialized professional development, pass a stringent examination in association management, and pledge to uphold of a code of ethics. To maintain the certification, individuals must undertake ongoing professional development and activities in association and nonprofit management. 3,900 association professionals currently hold the CAE credential. The CAE program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

ASAE is a membership organization of more than 21,000 association executives and industry partners representing 10,000 organizations. Its members manage leading trade associations, individual membership societies and voluntary organizations across the United States and in nearly 50 countries around the world. With support of the ASAE Foundation, a separate nonprofit entity, ASAE is the premier source of learning, knowledge and future-oriented research for the association and nonprofit profession and provides resources, education, ideas and advocacy to enhance the power and performance of the association and nonprofit community. For more information about ASAE, visit [www.asaecenter.org](http://www.asaecenter.org).