The names of the 2011 August and December graduates will appear in WVU’s official Commencement program in May 2012, and on the December Convocation website at http://decemberconvocation.wvu.edu in January 2012. Degrees will be conferred on December 28, 2011.

Graduates will have professional photos taken as they are recognized on-stage. Ordering instructions are available at http://decemberconvocation.wvu.edu and www.gradimages.com. Proofs will be emailed to the email addresses provided by the students prior to today’s ceremony.

Following today’s ceremony, please log onto http://decemberconvocation.wvu.edu to complete a survey and offer feedback about the event.
Laurie A. Badzek, LLM, JD, MS, RN, FAAN

Laurie Ann Badzek is a professor and director of the Appalachian Quality of Life Institute in the West Virginia University School of Nursing at the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center in Morgantown, West Virginia. She is also the director of the American Nurses Association Center for Ethics and Human Rights in Silver Spring, Maryland.

An active scholar, Professor Badzek investigates ethical and legal health care issues. Her research in nursing ethics, family decision making, and end-of-life care has informed nurses and other health care providers, and contributed to their understanding of advance care planning.

Her contributions to genomics and nursing practice have been integral to the development of the profession – from defining essential genetic/genomic competencies for all registered nurses to serving as principal investigator in the largest national study of nurses’ knowledge in genomics. This past November, Professor Badzek received a $300,000 grant from the National Council of the State Boards of Nursing for her project “Expanding RN Scope of Practice: A Method for Introducing a New Competency into Nursing Practice.”

In her role as director of the ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights, Professor Badzek is a national and international leader and spokesperson on ethics and health care policy. She has created and implemented strategies to educate nurses about a critical public policy document, the ANA Code of Ethics. She has also guided the development of numerous policy statements. In 2011, she was co-chair of the first substantive ANA cosponsored National Nursing Ethics Conference in decades.

In 2006, Professor Badzek was inducted into the National Academies of Practice, and this year she was inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

Professor Badzek is a graduate of the West Virginia University School of Nursing and the West Virginia University College of Law. In addition, she received her MS in nursing education and LLM in health care law from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois.

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