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## Goshen hospital's nurses earn 'nursing's highest honor' ¶

By MONICA HOUSMAN ¶

Goshen News Accent Editor ¶

Two years of work culminated Monday with a voice from a speaker phone announcing Goshen General Hospital nurses have achieved "nursing's highest honor." ¶

Applause broke out from the crowd of employees gathered in the Center for Cancer Care's lobby when a representative from American Nurses Credentialing Center confirmed the hospital had earned Magnet status. ¶

The Magnet Recognition Program was developed by the ANCC, a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association, to "recognize health-care organizations that provide the very best in nursing care," according to the ANCC's Web site. The Magnet program is the result of a study that identified variables that create an environment that attracts and retains well-qualified nurses, according to the Web site. ¶

GGH Chief Executive Officer Jim Dague said Magnet status falls in with the hospital's goal to provide "innovative, outstanding, caring services." ¶

Dague said the hospital's vision statement includes a goal to be nationally known by 2005. ¶

"Now we have a problem," he said. "We beat that — now what?" ¶